Philanthropy For Climate: State of the Movement Report, 2026

PHILANTHROPY FOR CLIMATE

WINGS
ELEVATING PHILANTHROPY

Philea
Philanthropy Europe Association

Contents

Photo credit (cover page): Shibasish Saha on Climate Visuals Countdown

Published in May 2026

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AI disclaimer: This content was edited by the WINGS and Philea teams for structure and flow with the support of AI tools. A human editor reviewed all AI-based suggestions and made all editorial decisions.

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SECTION 01

Executive summary

Philanthropy For Climate is a global call to all foundations — regardless of size, geography, mission or thematic focus — to embed climate action across their governance, assets, grantmaking, operations, advocacy and transparency. Through a multi-pillar framework, signatories take integrated action in ways that reflect their own starting points, capacities and priorities.

Photo credit: Shibasish Saha on Climate Visuals

Photo credit: UNDP Climate on Flickr

This first progress report on the Philanthropy For Climate movement, which complements annual progress reports for individual commitments, demonstrates that Philanthropy For Climate functions as a catalytic mechanism enabling foundations to move from awareness and intention to embedding climate action in their work, reflecting the effectiveness of the commitments in supporting signatories around the world.

This report is designed to support learning and momentum across the Philanthropy For Climate movement. It aims to recognise and understand progress made, and to encourage signatories to continue on their climate action pathway and contribute to broader shifts. For philanthropy support organisations, the report highlights how the Philanthropy For Climate movement can function as enabling infrastructure that strengthens philanthropy's response to the climate crisis within their geographies.

Thirteen commitments across the globe

Launched in 2019, today the movement brings together 962 foundation signatories across more than 30 countries, organised through 12 national and regional commitments, along with the International Commitment, which is available to those foundations based where no regional or national commitment exists, or whose work is global in scope. WINGS and Philea lead both the global movement and the International Commitment, alongside philanthropic networks leading commitments in their contexts:

- **Arab Region:** The Arab Foundations Forum*
- **Brazil:** Grupo de Institutos Fundações e Empresas (GIFE)
- **Canada:** Philanthropic Foundations Canada, Community Foundations of Canada, Environment Funders Canada, and The Circle
- **Caribbean:** Caribbean Philanthropy Alliance (CariPhil)*
- **France:** Centre Français des Fonds et Fondations (CFF)
- **Italy:** Assifero
- **Poland:** Forum Darczyńców w Polsce
- **Portugal:** Centro Português de Fundações (CPF)*
- **South Africa:** Independent Philanthropy Association of South Africa (IPASA)*
- **Spain:** Asociación Española de Fundaciones (AEF)
- **Türkiye:** Türkiye Üçüncü Sektör Vakfı (TÜSEV)*
- **United Kingdom:** Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF)

* *At the time of data collection for this report, these Philanthropy For Climate commitments had not yet been launched or had existed for less than a year. As such, their progress data is not reflected in this report.*

The Philanthropy For Climate commitments share a multi-pillar, interconnected approach that includes Transparency as a unifying pillar, with each commitment adapted to reflect local priorities and practices. Signing one of the Philanthropy For Climate commitments supports four distinct strategic functions which move signatories from intention to long-term transformation:

1. It **sparks** climate conversations and action, particularly in foundations new to the movement.
2. It **structures** work that foundations have started or are preparing to begin.
3. It **strengthens** awareness and ambition by fostering coherence over time.
4. It **sustains** climate action by embedding it structurally within foundations and linking them to a global collective movement that reinforces ambition, learning and annual reflection on progress.

Key findings

Drawing on responses from 452 signatories with a 51% response rate, this first Philanthropy For Climate movement progress report captures a movement with significant financial influence and strategic leverage: Responding signatories report over $5 billion (USD) in annual expenditure and at least $31.8 billion in endowments. Even incremental shifts in allocation, investment and advocacy within this cohort can translate into material real-world impact.

Collective progress

Across the movement, **98%** of responding signatories report making progress on their commitments.

Our framework uses three broad categories of progress: “Getting started”, “Building momentum”, and “Showing leadership”. These align with the answer choices given to respondents in the survey on progress by pillar: “just getting started”, “made some progress”, and “at an advanced stage”.

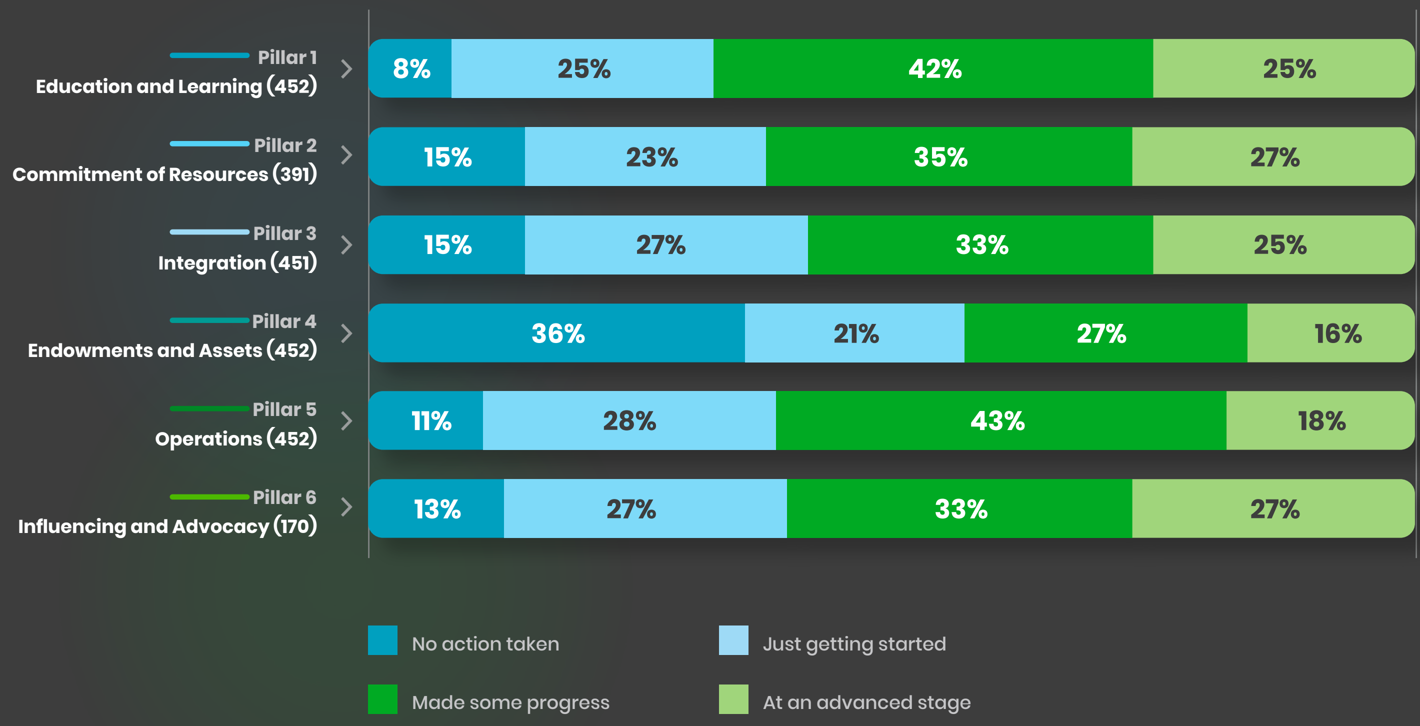
The survey shows that over two-thirds have moved beyond early engagement into mainstream practice, with 42% building momentum and over 29% showing leadership. This indicates that the Philanthropy For Climate movement is functioning as a catalytic mechanism of institutional change rather than a signalling initiative.

Progress is evident across foundation types and sizes, with particularly strong momentum among family and community foundations. Four in five (86%) family foundations and nine in ten (90%) community foundations are building momentum or showing leadership. This reinforces the understanding that the Philanthropy For Climate framework is adaptable across foundation types and confirms that climate integration and action are achievable beyond specialist or environmental funders.

Progress by pillar

Overview

Base: Response numbers for each question shown in brackets



1

Education and Learning has become standard practice across commitments and serves as the primary entry point: **92%** report progress.

2

Commitment of Resources is one of the two top progressing pillars, with **62%** making progress overall and **27%** of signatories reporting leadership-level progress.

3

Integration is progressing steadily, with **58%** reporting progress and **25%** at an advanced stage. Larger foundations report higher levels of integration, while the smallest foundations are more likely to report no action.

4

Endowments and Assets remains the biggest challenge, with **36%** reporting no action. However, action is much stronger among signatories that hold endowments: **95%** are acting, with **32%** at an advanced stage.

5

Action on **Operations** has become normative, with around nine in ten signatories taking action. Corporate foundations show the highest advanced-stage progress (**35%**) in this pillar.

6

Influencing and Advocacy also shows strong leadership-level progress, with **27%** at an advanced stage. Among the largest signatories, **76%** have made some progress.

7

Transparency remains uneven, suggesting a continued need to strengthen peer norms and lower risk: While **51%** of eligible signatories contributed to this collective report, which is in itself an act of transparency, only **35%** of responding signatories report publishing information on their climate progress.

Impact of the movement

Joining the Philanthropy For Climate movement is proving to be catalytic: 88% of respondents report that signing a national, regional or the International Commitment has impacted their awareness and action on climate change, and 53% report significant impact. Signatories reporting higher levels of progress are more likely to report significant impact. Among those with medium-to-high progress scores, 37% say signing one of the Philanthropy For Climate commitments affected them "quite a lot" or "tremendously". This reinforces that collective action frameworks and structured engagement reinforce sustained progress over time.

What this means for the movement

Across diverse philanthropic cultures and structures, the evidence shows that climate integration is becoming mainstream practice across the movement. The scale of participation and the volume of assets and expenditure represented translate into significant and growing real-world influence. The next phase of the movement will need to focus on progression and expansion, determining how quickly foundations convert early progress into embedded, systemic change across all pillars.

SECTION 02

Introduction

Climate change is reshaping the people, places and causes philanthropy exists to serve. Its impacts do not occur in isolation: It affects all areas from public health systems, to food and water security, to equality and education, while also exacerbating the impacts of conflict and political instability. Recognising climate change as cross-cutting reveals a simple and urgent truth: Whatever their mission and field of expertise, all organisations with philanthropic resources have powerful levers to employ to address climate change.

Photo credit: Water Alternatives Photos on Flickr

For foundations working across the Sustainable Development Goals, climate action is a dynamic and evolving area of work through which foundations can spark new partnerships, reach new audiences and ensure the relevance and resilience of their philanthropic action. Addressing climate change is not a diversion from foundations' core missions; it is a powerful way to advance these and live out the values that underpin their work. Without action on climate change, the long-term mission impact of foundations is at risk, as is the effectiveness and credibility of our sector overall.

Encouragingly, philanthropic funding for climate has grown in recent years. Still, it remains far from commensurate with the scale of the crisis: 2% of global philanthropic giving is directed toward climate mitigation and even less is focused on climate adaptation, despite mounting evidence that vulnerable regions are already bearing disproportionate impacts. This underinvestment creates a unique opportunity for philanthropic leadership and transformative action. By stepping further into this space, philanthropy can help bring about a fair and sustainable future for communities and ecosystems across the globe.

Photo credit: Nuno Rodrigues Climate Visuals

Philanthropy For Climate: Collective action in a fragmenting world

Philanthropy For Climate calls on all foundations, regardless of size, geography, or thematic focus to recognise climate change as a systemic risk to their mission and integrate climate action across governance, operations, assets, programmes and advocacy.

Launched in 2019, today the movement brings together 962 foundation signatories across over 30 countries, working through 12 national and regional commitments led by philanthropic network organisations. Additionally, WINGS and Philea jointly host the International Commitment, which engages foundations in geographies which are not covered by a national or regional commitment, or whose work is global in scope.

Philanthropy For Climate Ecosystem

Through the locally-led and International commitments, Philanthropy For Climate harnesses the capacity, expertise and networks of philanthropy support organisations – key infrastructure organisations dedicated to supporting and strengthening diverse forms of philanthropy – as powerful catalysts for mobilising philanthropic action. This locally anchored but globally coordinated structure enables adaptation to diverse philanthropic contexts while maintaining shared principles and progress measures.

At its core, Philanthropy For Climate encourages signatories to adopt:

- **An interconnected lens**, exploring how the climate emergency impacts, and is impacted by their existing areas of work.
- **A multi-pillar approach**, exploring the various levers for change available to them for more systemic action.

With the support of a practical framework, peer community and capacity-building opportunities, signatories are equipped to implement their commitment for more transformative and systemic level action.

Transparency at the heart of the movement

Transparency is a core component of this movement, a unifying pillar across the commitments which requires signatories to reflect on and report the actions they have taken. This recognises the urgent need for more data sharing and storytelling that showcases how change can happen, as a way to shift mindsets, inspire greater action, offer entry points for those just getting started, and raise ambition.

This first State of the Movement Report marks a significant milestone: For the first time, data from eight of the most established commitments has been aggregated using standardised questions and progress measures. This allows us to:

- Provide a global snapshot of who makes up the movement
- Assess where momentum is building and where signatories require additional support
- Identify structural trends and gaps across the diversity of foundation sizes, structures and geographies
- Validate and strengthen insights emerging from national progress reports

The findings demonstrate widespread progress, but also uneven integration across pillars and stages of momentum. They reinforce the importance of ecosystem infrastructure, peer learning, and sustained capacity building to translate commitment into durable institutional change.

This report offers a collective baseline. For more detailed pathways and context-specific guidance to support further progress, signatories are encouraged to consult their national progress reports as well as the International Commitment Progress Report 2.

Why this report matters now

In an era marked by climate disruption, geopolitical uncertainty, constrained public finance, and rising political polarisation, philanthropy's legitimacy increasingly depends on its ability to demonstrate coherence, seriousness and contribution.

This report marks a collective reflection point for the global movement and is a strategic tool for foundations, philanthropy support organisations, policymakers and partners seeking to understand how climate integration is unfolding across the sector. It captures where the movement stands today, establishes a baseline for accountability and learning, and it signals that climate action is no longer peripheral but is structural to the future of philanthropy.

Methodology

This global data aggregation exercise is the first of its kind for the Philanthropy For Climate movement. Progress data was gathered by commitments that had existed for over a year at the time of collecting data. These include Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Poland, Spain, the UK and the International Commitment. Newly established commitments in the Arab Region, the Caribbean, Portugal, South Africa and Türkiye will be included in subsequent reporting, once they reach this milestone.

Of the movement's 962 signatories, 881 were eligible according to the above criterion. A total of 452 signatories took part in this global progress data gathering, representing 51% of the eligible signatories.

Participating commitment hosts surveyed signatories using a standard set of questions across all commitments. Potential double counting was mitigated by identifying foundations that were signatories to more than one commitment, and ensuring that their data was incorporated only once. In practice, as we encourage foundations to sign only one commitment, such cases were rare, and no organisation submitted responses to two surveys.

A standardised template for data entry was shared with participating commitment teams, who compiled the information and returned it for analysis in excel. Participation varied by country, appearing to be influenced by national philanthropic structures, regulatory environments and reporting norms (for specific response rates, see section "Who are the Philanthropy For Climate signatories?" p.14).

Composite score categories were identified by combining each signatory's progress against each of the Philanthropy For Climate pillars into a single score, then using averages to assign these scores into four ratings from no action through to showing leadership. The Transparency pillar isn't included in progress ratings as it entailed a yes/no question on whether the signatory was publishing any information regarding climate progress. During analysis, scales were harmonised e.g. on financial information, as differing contexts meant that some questions were framed differently or not applicable across the board. The data template did not capture any qualitative data, which limits the degree to which findings can be explained. To address this, the analysis also draws on national commitment reports to help contextualise findings, and was validated in a workshop with commitment hosts.

SECTION 03

Who are the Philanthropy For Climate signatories?

Photo credit: UN Women on Flickr

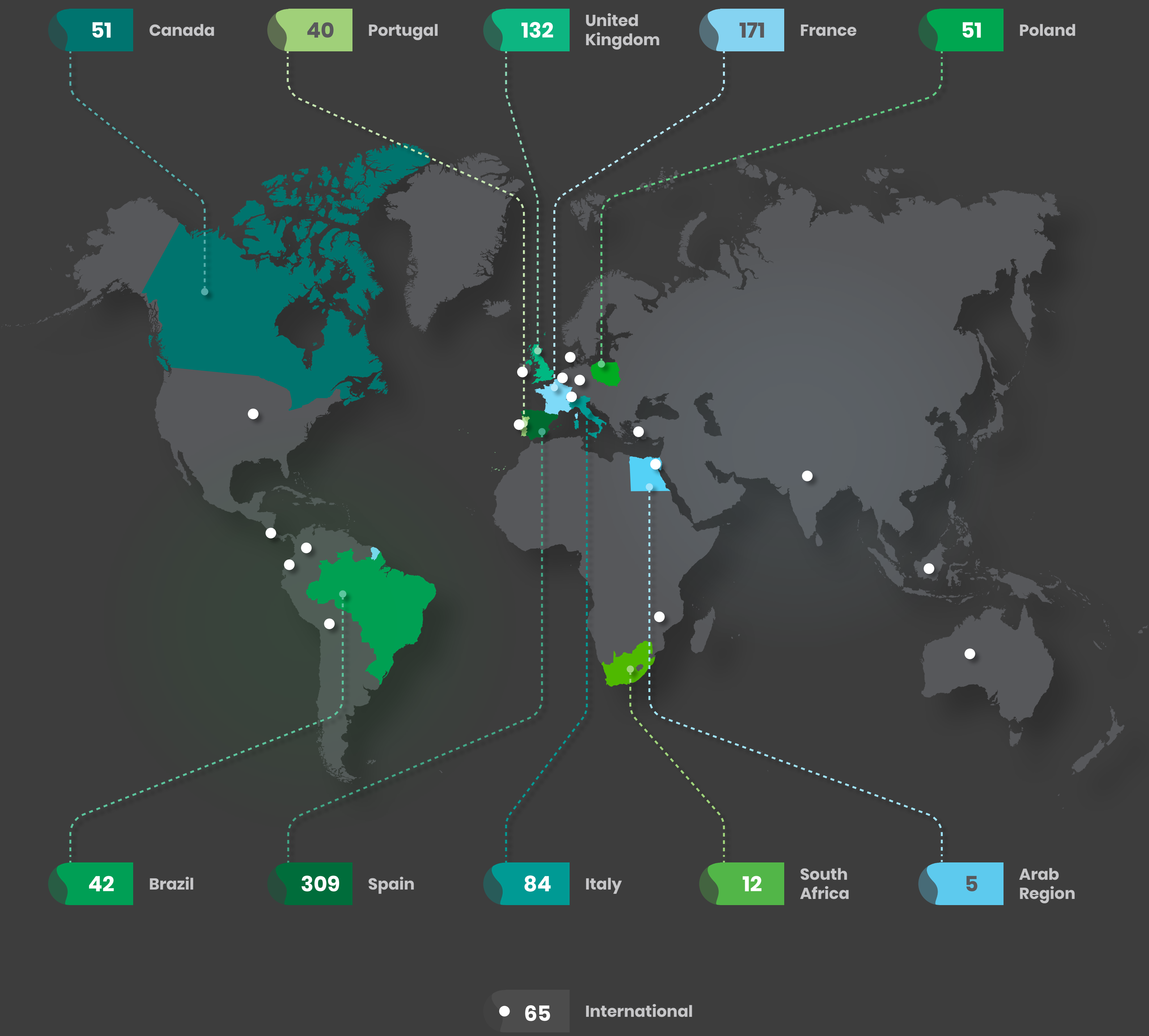
Responding signatories range in type, from community foundations to family-linked foundations to large, endowed foundations. They support every area from education to poverty to health. And they are based in countries across the globe. This diversity only underscores that any foundation can make an impact when it comes to climate change.

The Philanthropy For Climate movement now includes 962 signatories spread over 30 countries through 13 Commitments (full signatory list). With the first Commitment launched in 2019, the movement continues to grow.

As we take a close look at the responding signatories, it's clear that foundations who have signed on to this movement are a highly diverse group of organisations. They range in type, from community foundations to family-linked foundations to large, endowed foundations. They support every area from education to poverty to health. And they are based in countries across the globe. This diversity only underscores that any foundation can make an impact when it comes to climate change.

Timeline of Philanthropy For Climate Commitment launches

Philanthropy for Climate Signatories Around the World



SECTION 04

Respondent Profile

Geographic spread

Participation in reporting varies across commitments and is influenced by national philanthropic structures, regulatory frameworks and sector norms.

Progress data was only gathered by commitments that had existed for over a year at the time of collecting data. Newly established commitments in the Arab Region, South Africa, Portugal, the Caribbean and Türkiye will be included in subsequent reporting, once they reach this milestone. A total of 452 signatories took part in this global progress data gathering, out of an eligible 881, representing a response rate of 51%.

Photo credit: Elenll on iStock

The response rate shows significant national variation:

Commitment	Response rate	Eligible signatories	Respondents
UK (est. 2019)	87%	127	110
Brazil (est. 2023)	63%	41	26
Poland (est. 2023)	57%	58	32
Canada (est. 2021)	55%	49	27
Spain (est. 2020)	54%	310	152
International (est. 2021)	48%	48	24
France (est. 2020)	37%	167	61
Italy (est. 2021)	25%	81	20
Total	**51%**	**881**	**452**

Countries with the largest numbers of responding signatories, such as Spain and the UK, also have the largest signatory bases. This reflects scale as much as engagement. However, response rates vary considerably. The UK records an 87% response rate, while Italy records 25%. Two of the most recent commitments, Brazil (2023) and Poland (2023), both exceed 50%, while France (2020) records 37%.

Commitment age alone does not explain participation in reporting. Variations appear linked to national context. In highly institutionalised and regulated environments, such as the UK and Canada, established governance structures and reporting norms may support participation. In Brazil and Poland, operational and impact-oriented traditions, alongside strong links to public accountability frameworks, may encourage engagement despite newer commitments. In more fragmented or legally complex ecosystems, such as Italy and France, structural diversity and capacity constraints may affect reporting levels. Hosts are currently exchanging good practices on how to optimise response rates.

Endowments

Responding signatories report holding at least \$31.8 billion in endowments. There is substantial potential across the movement to support climate investment and improve allocation practices. Even incremental shifts in how their assets are managed could generate outsized impact. This reinforces the need for foundations to consider their full financial profile, not only their grantmaking, when implementing their climate commitment.

Only a third of signatories (32%) shared data on the size of their endowments: This was an optional question, which wasn't asked in Brazil or Spain, and national variations play a major role. There is a wide variation in the understanding, use and the size of endowments across countries. The term "endowments" is well established in some geographies, while in others it is less commonly used or has different legal and financial implications. This variation, combined with the uneven prevalence of endowed foundations, has likely impacted responses to this question.

For example, most foundations in Poland do not have endowments, and most in Spain have endowments well below \$500,000 as it is often not the primary funding source. Responding French signatories mostly fall under a smaller category while UK, Canadian and International signatories are most often found in the largest category.

Expenditure

Responding signatories are highly influential, spending a total (all causes) of over \$5 billion annually. Signatories with annual expenditure above \$5.8 million represent the largest share of respondents at 34%, while those spending below \$58,000 account for just 5%. This distribution broadly mirrors the endowment profile, though expenditure data also includes signatories from Poland and Spain where endowment patterns differ structurally.

Type of foundation

Signatories are diverse in their models and approaches, demonstrating that climate action is possible for any foundation type. Around half of responding signatories shared their organisation type. As shown below, we can see that foundation type varies considerably by country, reflecting different philanthropic cultures and legal structures.

Type of foundation by country

Base: Response numbers for each question shown in brackets

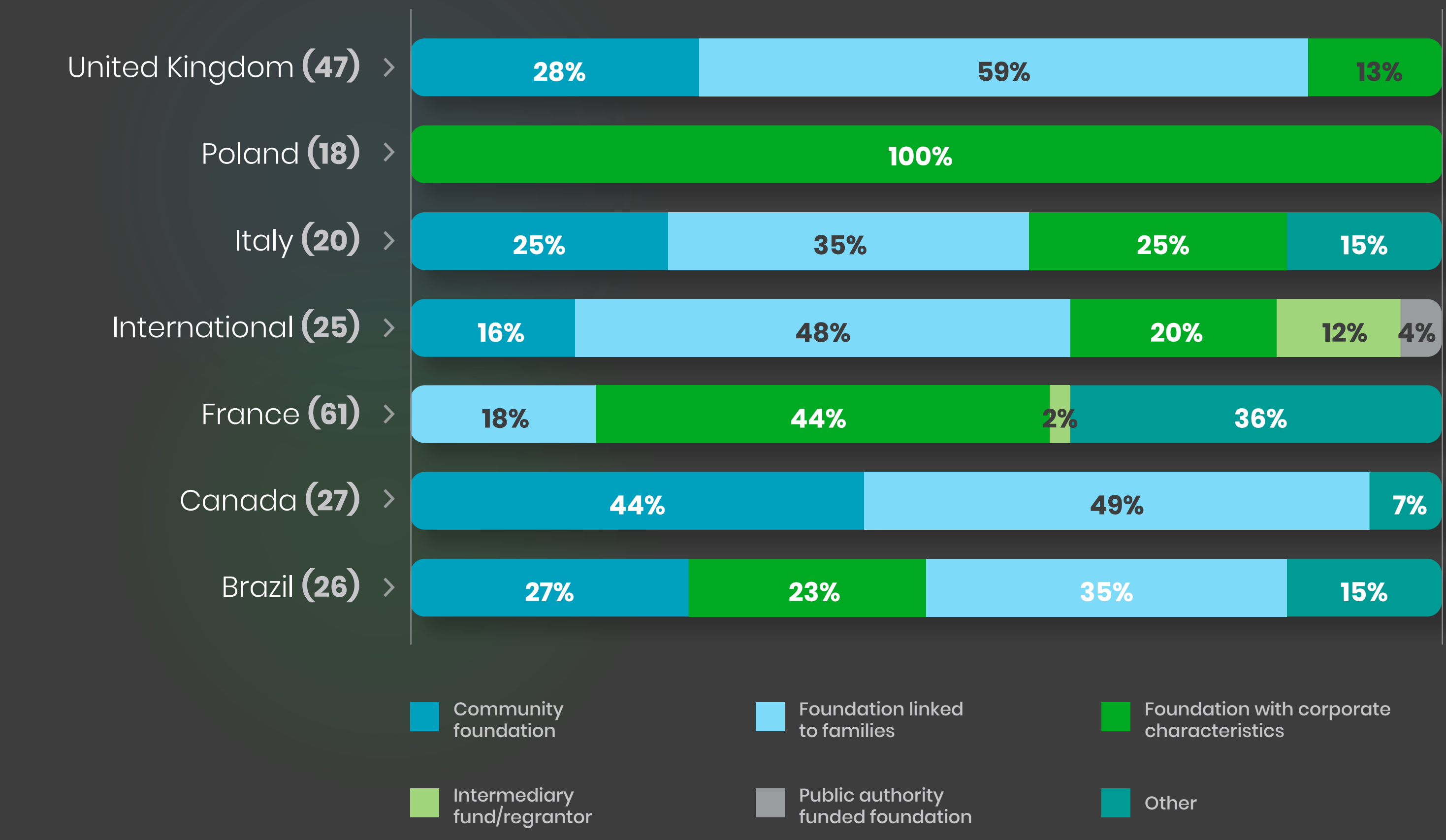


Photo credit: Australian Youth Climate Coalition on Flickr

Areas of activity

Signatories are active across all areas of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Philanthropy For Climate signatories are active in diverse thematic areas and are working across all global SDGs. Over half of signatories cite climate action as an area of activity. Beyond this, thematic focus did not materially influence reported progress and is therefore not analysed further.

Main activity areas

Base: 299 responses

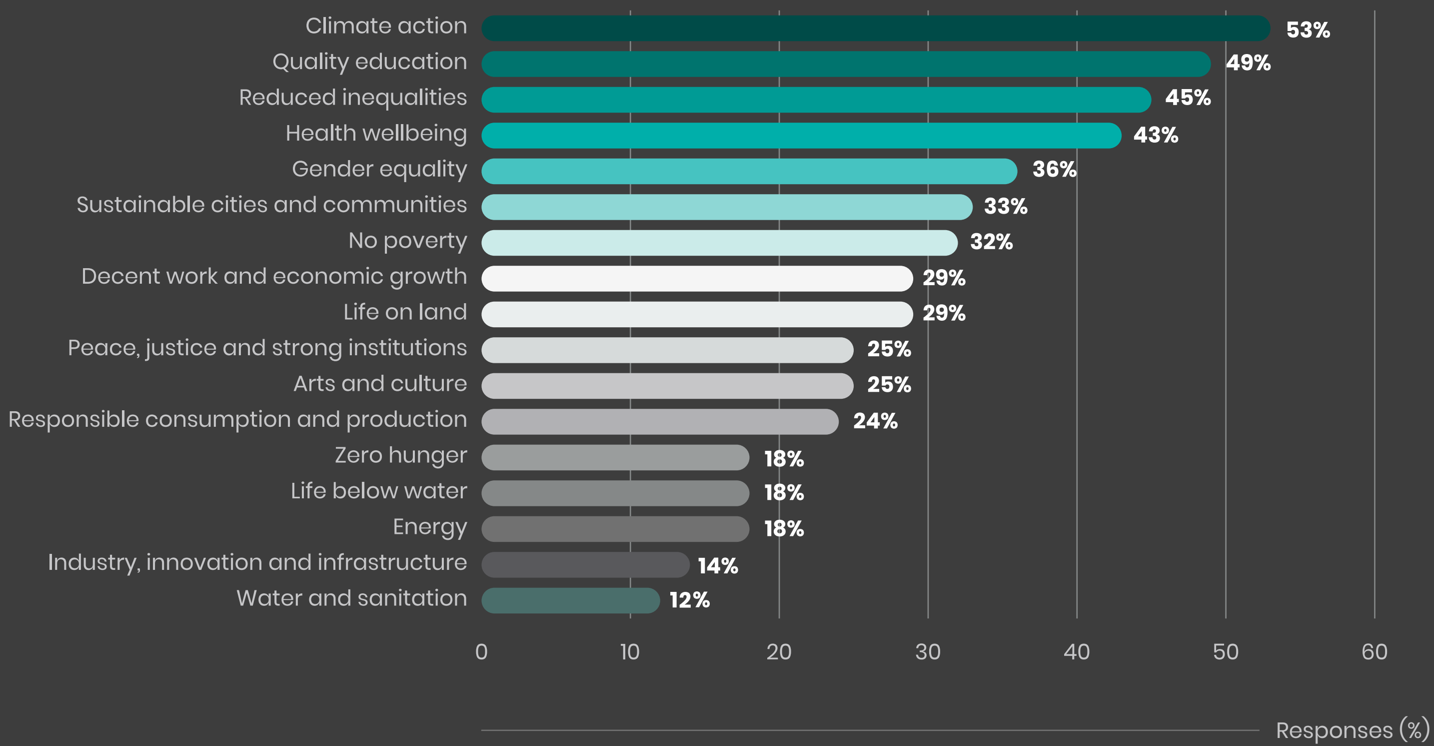


Photo credit: Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT on Flickr

SECTION 05

Contextual-ising the findings

Photo credit: Andrew Watson on Climate Visuals Countdown

The findings in this report reflect a movement operating across very different philanthropic ecosystems, regulatory environments, funding models, and institutional traditions.

Understanding these national and regional contexts is important for interpreting the data. Progress may look different across commitments depending on factors such as governance structures, levels of institutionalisation, availability of endowments, reporting norms, civic space, and the broader role philanthropy plays within society.

To help contextualise the findings, Commitment Hosts contributed short snapshots of their local philanthropic landscapes and the realities shaping climate action within their contexts. These snapshots are available in Annex 1.

We are grateful to all Commitment Hosts who contributed their insights and perspectives to help reflect the diversity of the global Philanthropy For Climate movement.

Photo credit: UNDP Climate on Flickr

SECTION 06

Collective progress

Photo credit: UNclimatechange on Flickr

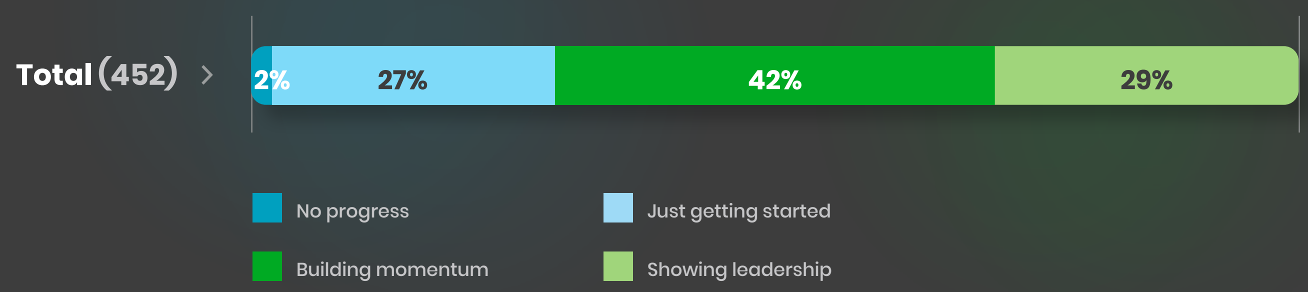
98% of responding signatories report making progress and nearly three-quarters have moved beyond just getting started. This progress demonstrates that signing the commitment is more than symbolic; for many signatories it is shaping operational and strategic practice.

98% of responding signatories report making progress, indicating that climate action is becoming embedded across the movement. Our analysis, following the Philanthropy For Climate framework, uses three broad categories of progress: “Getting started”, “Building momentum”, and “Showing leadership”. The data show that nearly 3/4 of signatories have moved beyond just getting started and into mainstream practice:

- **Nearly 1/2 are building momentum**
- **Over a 1/4 are showing leadership**

Collective progress

Base: Response number shown in brackets



This progress demonstrates that signing the commitment is more than symbolic; for many signatories it is shaping operational and strategic practice.

Forward-looking, structured planning is a key enabler for further progress: The 2026 International Commitment Progress Report 2 , which focuses on progress made by signatories of the International Commitment, found that foundations are three times more likely to make progress if they have a specific action plan.

Structure and size influences pace of implementation

Foundation type and size shape how signatories are implementing their commitments: They tend to act first where decision-making control is greatest – often in education and learning and direct operations. Encouraging these early steps is a good way to get new foundations, including non-climate foundations, on board the movement.

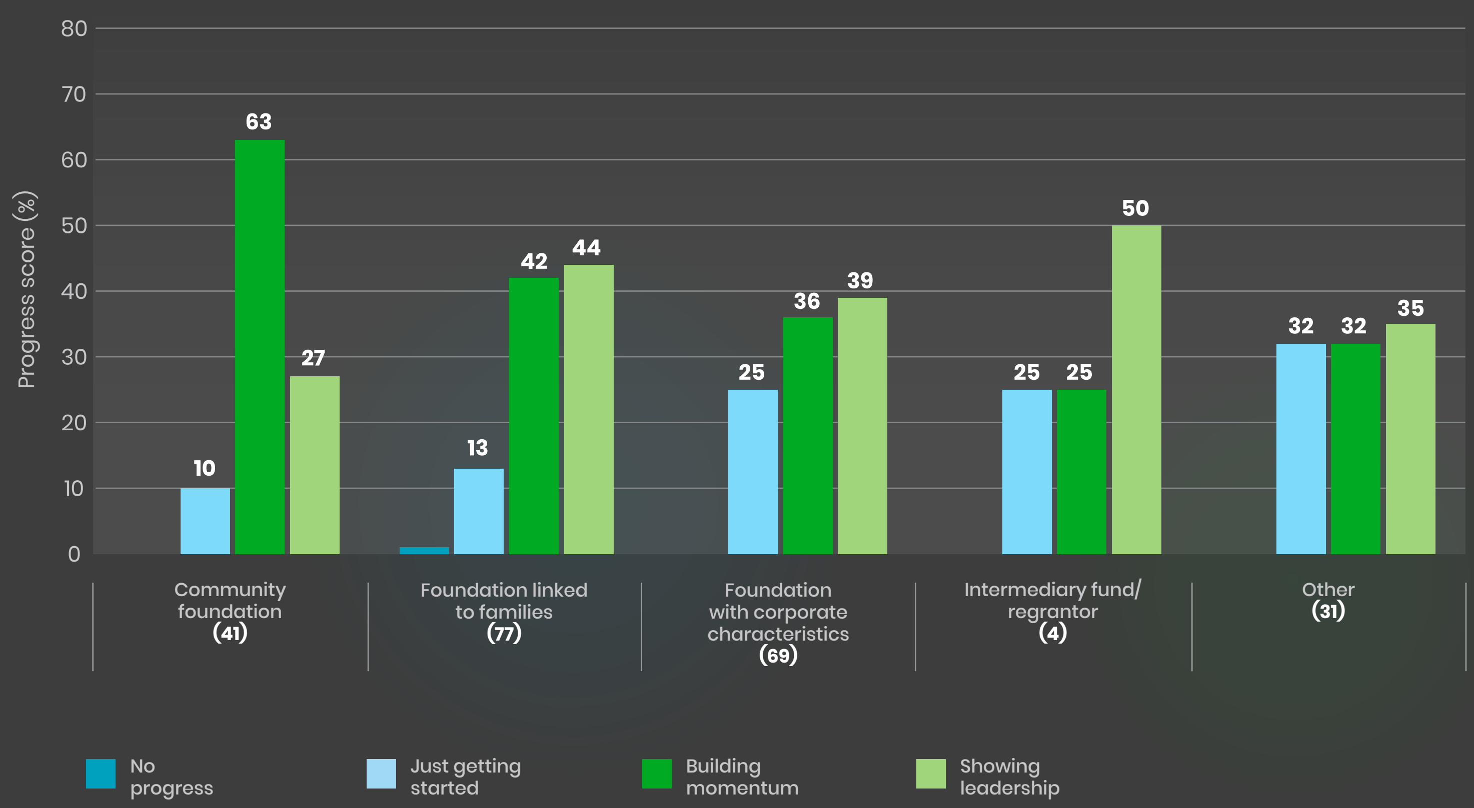
Momentum is not evenly distributed across foundation types. Community foundations appear to be advancing fastest, and a significant share of family foundations already see themselves as leaders. This pattern may reflect differences in governance structures and decision-making autonomy.

Capacity influences implementation pace. Lower spending signatories are far more likely to be just getting started (62%), while higher spending foundations are more likely to report leadership. This suggests that financial and staffing capacity enables faster and deeper implementation.

However, progress is not determined solely by scale. A notable minority of smaller signatories report leadership, indicating that ambition and organisational focus also play a role.

Foundation type and composite progress scores

Base: Response numbers for each question shown in brackets



Almost all respondents are active under the Education and Learning pillar. The strongest progress is found under the Committing Resources and Influencing and Advocacy pillars. The Endowments and Assets pillar is the slowest area to progress.

Nearly all signatories are active on Education and Learning, with less than 1 in 10 (8%) reporting no action. Progress is strongest on the Commitment of Resources and Influencing and Advocacy pillars — with over a quarter (27%) of signatories reporting that they have reached an advanced stage. The Endowments and Assets pillar is slowest to pick up across signatories, with over a third (36%) of signatories having taken no action yet. Action on this pillar differs significantly depending on if foundations are endowed or not, suggesting that more attention is required to clarify uncertainty about how to act on broader financial asset categories where no endowment exists.

Overview of progress by Pillar

Base: Response numbers for each question shown in brackets

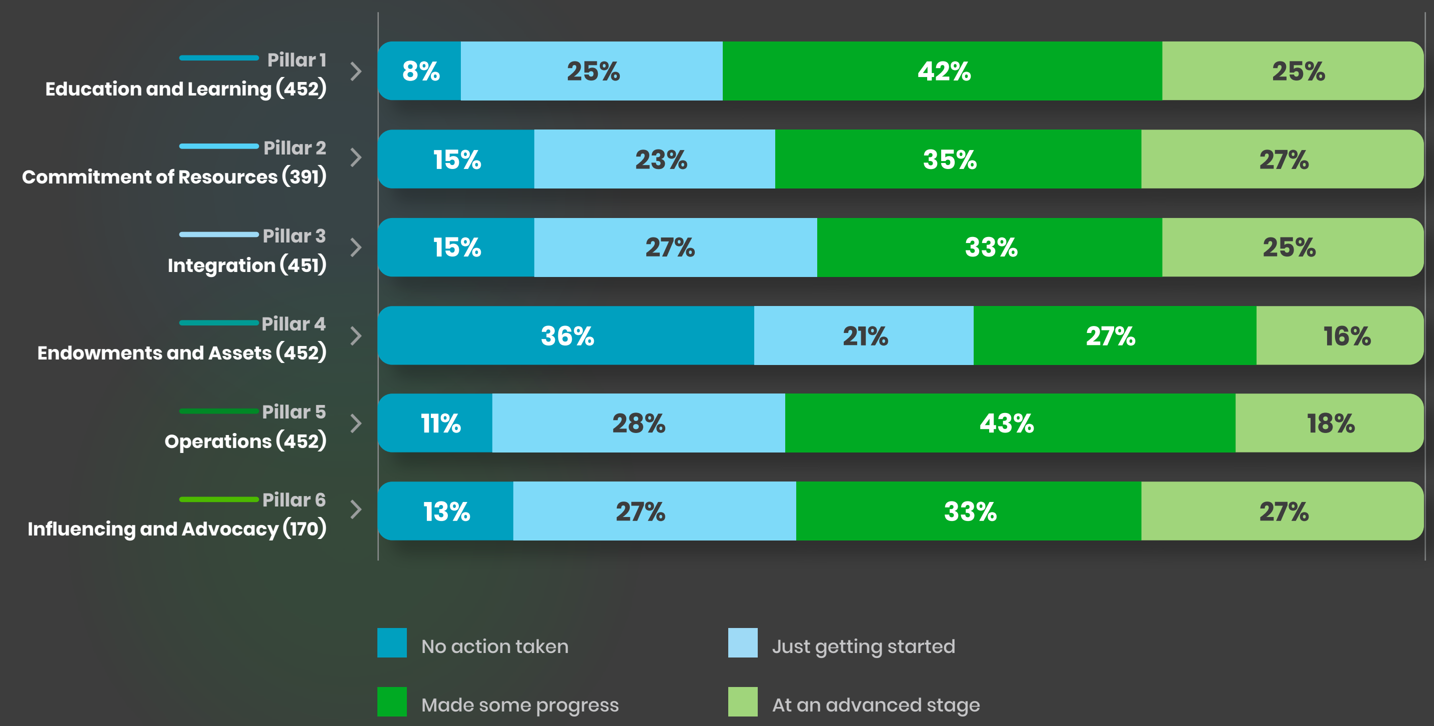


Photo credit: UNclimatechange on Flickr

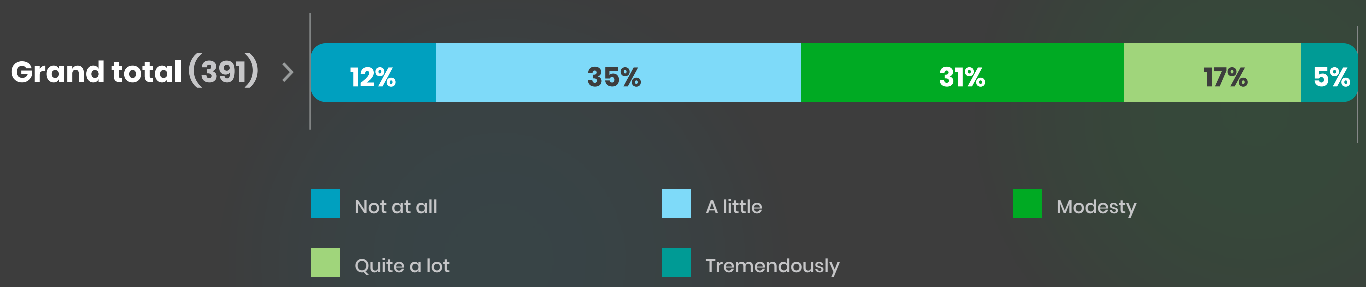
How the Philanthropy For Climate movement supports progress

88% of signatories report that signing a Philanthropy For Climate commitment has had an impact on their awareness and action. The greater signatories' participation in the movement, the greater the benefit they report.

88% of signatories report that signing a Philanthropy For Climate commitment has had an impact on their awareness and action. Over half of signatories (53%) report a significant impact, and only 12% report no impact at all. While some respondents who reported an impact shared qualitative insights into how the commitment influenced their work, the survey did not capture further detail from those reporting no impact, and so further investigation is required. The greater signatories' participation in the movement, the greater the benefit they report.

Impact of signing commitment signatories' awareness and action

Base: Response numbers for each question shown in brackets

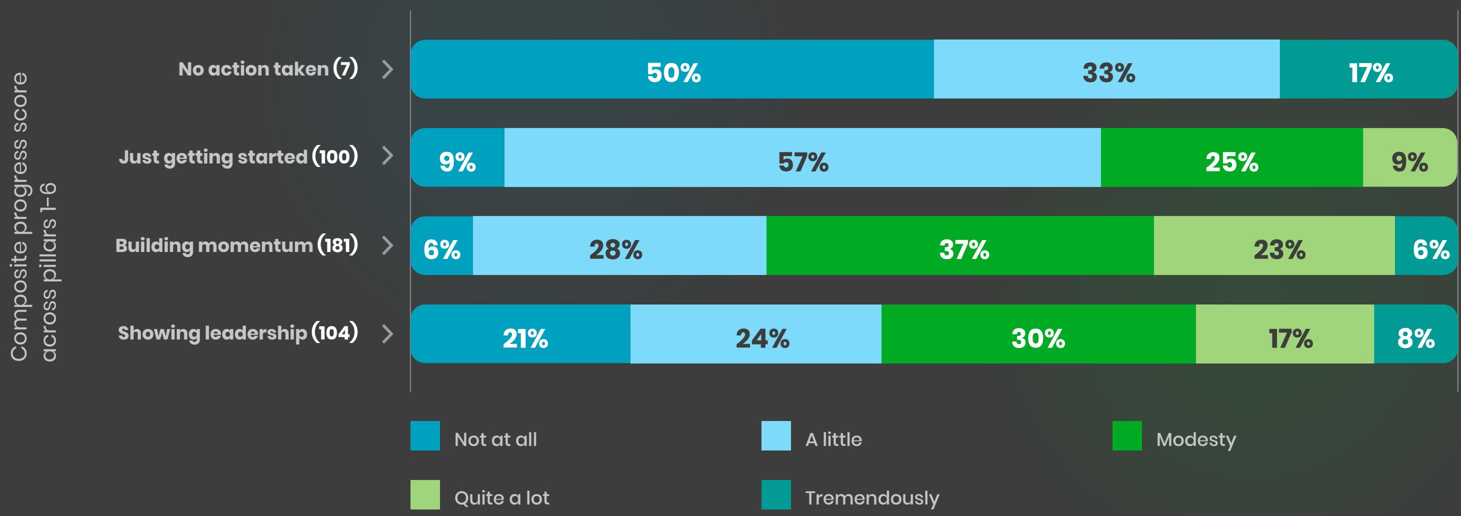


Signatories reporting higher levels of progress are more likely to report that the commitment has significantly influenced their awareness and action, suggesting deeper engagement reinforces institutional level change. Among those with medium to high progress scores, 37% say signing the commitment affected them “quite a lot” or “tremendously”. Three quarters of those “tremendously” helped by the commitment have higher progress scores. In contrast, 72% of signatories with the lowest progress scores report that the commitment influenced them only “a little” or “not at all”.

This pattern suggests that deeper engagement with the commitment and its associated support structures is linked to stronger internal shifts. This reinforces the importance of sustained engagement beyond sign-on, as continued participation appears to strengthen behavioural and strategic change.

Relationship between progress scores and impact of commitment

Base: Response numbers for each question shown in brackets



Perceived impact varies by foundation type. Community foundations are almost twice as likely as family foundations to report that the commitment has had a strong impact on their awareness and action, with 32% reporting a significant effect compared to 17% of family foundations. This suggests that peer-led and place-based institutions may respond strongly to collective frameworks and shared accountability mechanisms.

Reported impact also varies by national context. In newer commitments, lower reported influence may reflect shorter exposure rather than limited relevance. In Brazil, for example, 27% of signatories report no impact, yet strong progress scores among some signatories suggest that a number were already advanced in their climate work prior to joining – indeed a notable number had benefited from being signatories to the International Commitment prior to establishment of the national one. This highlights the need to distinguish between catalytic impact and pre-existing leadership when interpreting influence data.

SECTION 07

Progress by pillar

1. Education and Learning
2. Commitment of Resources
3. Integration
4. Endowments and Assets
5. Operations
6. Influencing and Advocacy
7. Transparency

Photo credit: Milos Bicanski on Climate Visuals

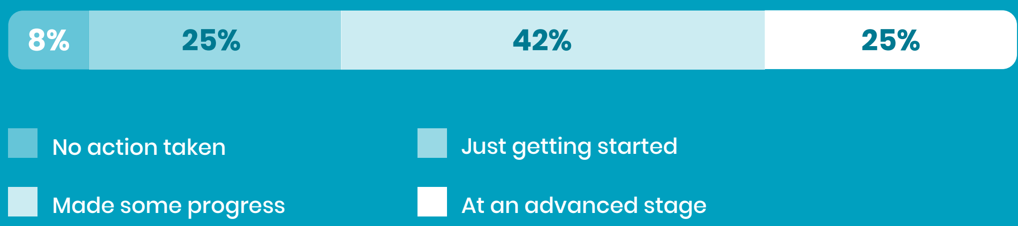
PILLAR

01

Education and Learning

Creating opportunities to deepen our awareness and understanding of climate change, its causes and impacts

Progress on Pillar 1: Education and Learning
(452 respondents)



Education and Learning is the most accessible entry point across the movement, with almost all signatories making progress and a quarter already at an advanced stage.

Education and Learning is consistently a strong entry point across commitments, regardless of geography or foundation model, with 92% of signatories reporting that they are making progress in this pillar. International and national commitment progress reports reinforce this, identifying the pillar as a natural starting point and an area of continuous learning across the movement.

While participation is high, advanced implementation remains uneven, and capacity constraints are evident among lower-spending foundations. Progress correlates with total expenditure, most likely reflecting differences in capacity:

- Signatories with the lowest total expenditure have the highest proportion that report taking no action (24%), and the lowest proportion that report being at an advanced stage (12%).
- As total expenditure grows, progress increases: Among the largest group, consisting of 106 signatories spending over \$5.8 million, 59% report making some progress.

This pattern suggests that overall size and resourcing influences depth of engagement. **For the movement, this points to two clear opportunities: Make it easier for smaller signatories to take practical first steps, and support larger signatories to move from early progress to embedded practice, sharing concrete tools and approaches across commitments.**

Several recent progress reports from national commitments echo this sentiment, for example the most recent Canadian progress report notes the importance of developing shared assets (e.g. board education decks, vetted vendor lists) as a way to address capacity as the top barrier to action. **Realising this potential will require sustained investment in capacity building, peer-learning infrastructure, and practical implementation support across the network.**

Pillar 1: Education and Learning progress by expenditure (in USD)

Base: Response numbers for each question shown in brackets

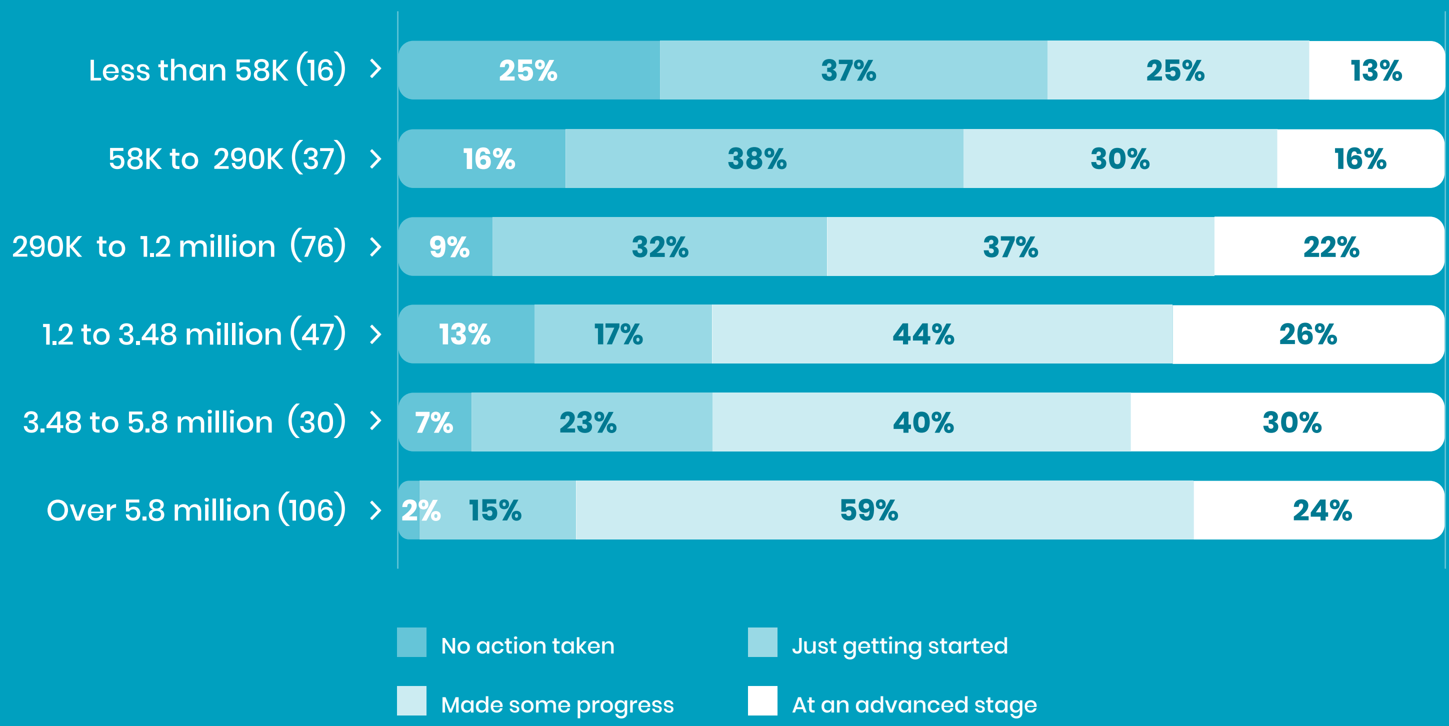


Photo credit: Rodney Dekker on Climate Visuals

Foundation type is associated with depth of engagement:

- 40% of family foundations report being at the most advanced stage.
- Community foundations show the greatest overall progress, with 78% having made some progress or reached an advanced stage, and only 2% taking no action.

Evidence from the most recent French progress report (2024) offers a transferable hypothesis for this pattern. It notes that French signatories that are operating foundations are more active on Education and Learning and suggests that proximity to the field may explain differences in engagement. This indicates that governance models and closeness to delivery contexts may shape how signatories approach learning and awareness building.

Across commitments, Education and Learning is widely understood as a continuous process. More established commitments, such as the UK, demonstrate how learning can be sustained over time, while newer commitments offer insight into how early momentum can be generated. The recent progress report on the newly established Polish Commitment notes that signatories value peer learning as a driver of momentum that can help reconcile ambition and limited resources. Multiple national reports identify staff capacity as a barrier to moving from awareness to advanced implementation. **This means prioritising structured peer exchange, practical tools, and shared learning frameworks could reduce the time burden on smaller teams. Signatories already demonstrating advanced practice are well positioned to accelerate progress across the movement by sharing tested approaches and insights.**

Brazil stands out on the Education and Learning pillar, with 62% of responding signatories reporting that they are at an advanced stage. In most other countries, only around a third, or fewer, report reaching this level, with lower proportions in the UK (17%) and Spain (18%).

Although the Brazilian Commitment was launched recently, many of its signatories were already signatories of the International Commitment before the national commitment was launched. As reported in the most recent International Commitment progress report, those reporting the most advanced progress are often early adopters who were already active in this space. The figures therefore appear to reflect a concentration of existing leadership, alongside effective mobilisation by the national host with investment in internal and external capacity building, knowledge exchange, and the production of materials that connect climate justice, race, gender and territory. This suggests that national commitments can rapidly consolidate and amplify existing leadership, accelerating visible progress even within a short timeframe. Capturing and sharing what underpins this concentration of advanced actors offers a clear opportunity for cross-commitment learning.

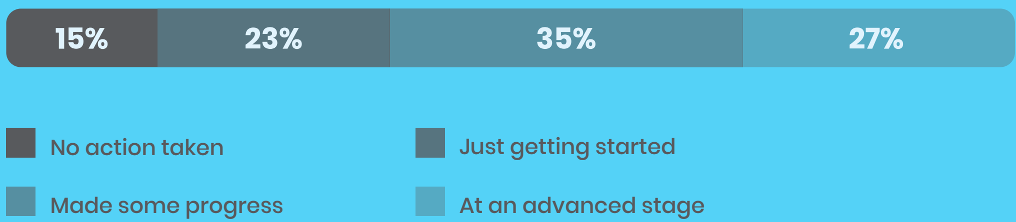
PILLAR

02

Commitment of Resources

Making our resources available for addressing climate change

Progress on Pillar 2: Commitment of Resources
(391 respondents)



*This data does not include French Commitment as there was no equivalent pillar in their national Commitment.

85% of signatories report taking action on the Commitment of Resources, with **27%** at an advanced stage. Deepening the ambition of high-expenditure foundations on Commitment of Resources would have an outsized impact.

Progress on Commitment of Resources is substantial, with 85% taking action and over a quarter reaching an advanced stage. As with Education and Learning, depth of progress correlates with total expenditure. Signatories with higher overall expenditure are more likely to report action, while many of the lowest spending signatories report no action to date. **This indicates that unlocking early, proportionate pathways for lower-spending foundations could shift progress for approximately 15% of signatories who are currently inactive under this pillar.**

An interesting finding is that even though foundations with higher overall expenditure are more likely to report taking some kind of action, it is the mid-sized foundations who report higher levels of progress. Among the largest group of highest spending signatories, 40% are making some progress and 29% have reached an advanced stage. By contrast, 41% of mid-sized signatories have reached an advanced stage. **Given the scale of resources held by the largest signatories, even incremental movement from early progress to advanced practice within this cohort would have a disproportionate impact.**

Photo credit: Dept of Energy Solar Decathlon on Flickr

Foundation type also shapes progress. 53% of family foundations report reaching an advanced stage. Corporate foundations are less advanced overall, with 36% at advanced stage and 14% taking no action. This pattern may reflect governance dynamics. Family foundations often retain direct control over allocation decisions, while corporate foundations may operate within company frameworks that shape or constrain budget flexibility. Understanding these structural differences is important when reflecting on progress and considering next steps.

Progress is relatively consistent across countries, but with notable variations that reflect differences within the philanthropic landscape. Spain and Poland report fairly large groups taking no action (24% and 22% respectively). These patterns align with national philanthropic structures described in the landscape snapshots above. In Poland, where most foundations operate without endowments and depend on externally sourced or public funding, flexibility to reallocate resources may be limited. In Spain, widespread small endowments and limited staffing capacity may similarly shape the pace and scale of commitment. This reinforces that variation across countries reflects structural context as much as intent.

Overall global climate finance remains disproportionately low, and the availability of funds to commit varies within the movement. While progress within the movement is notable, it sits within a wider sectoral reality in which climate remains significantly underfunded across philanthropy. Progress must be celebrated and the scale of work ahead should not be underestimated.

Within this context, some foundations are exploring additional ways to maximise the resources they make available. For example, International Commitment signatories, which reported spending $940 million on climate action in the previous year, reported increasing the proportion (52%), the volume (43%) and the effectiveness (30%) of this spending. And the most recent Italian progress report (2024) also suggests that resources extend beyond financial or material assets to include time, expertise, networks, influence and relationships.

This broader understanding invites foundations, whatever the size of their financial budgets, including those that have reached the ceiling of their current financial capacity, to consider additional pathways for contribution. For foundations with constrained budgets, this opens practical avenues for contribution beyond grant size alone. For larger funders, it strengthens the case for aligning financial allocations with influence and leadership potential.

Pillar 2: Commitment of Resources progress by expenditure (in USD)

Base: Response numbers for each question shown in brackets

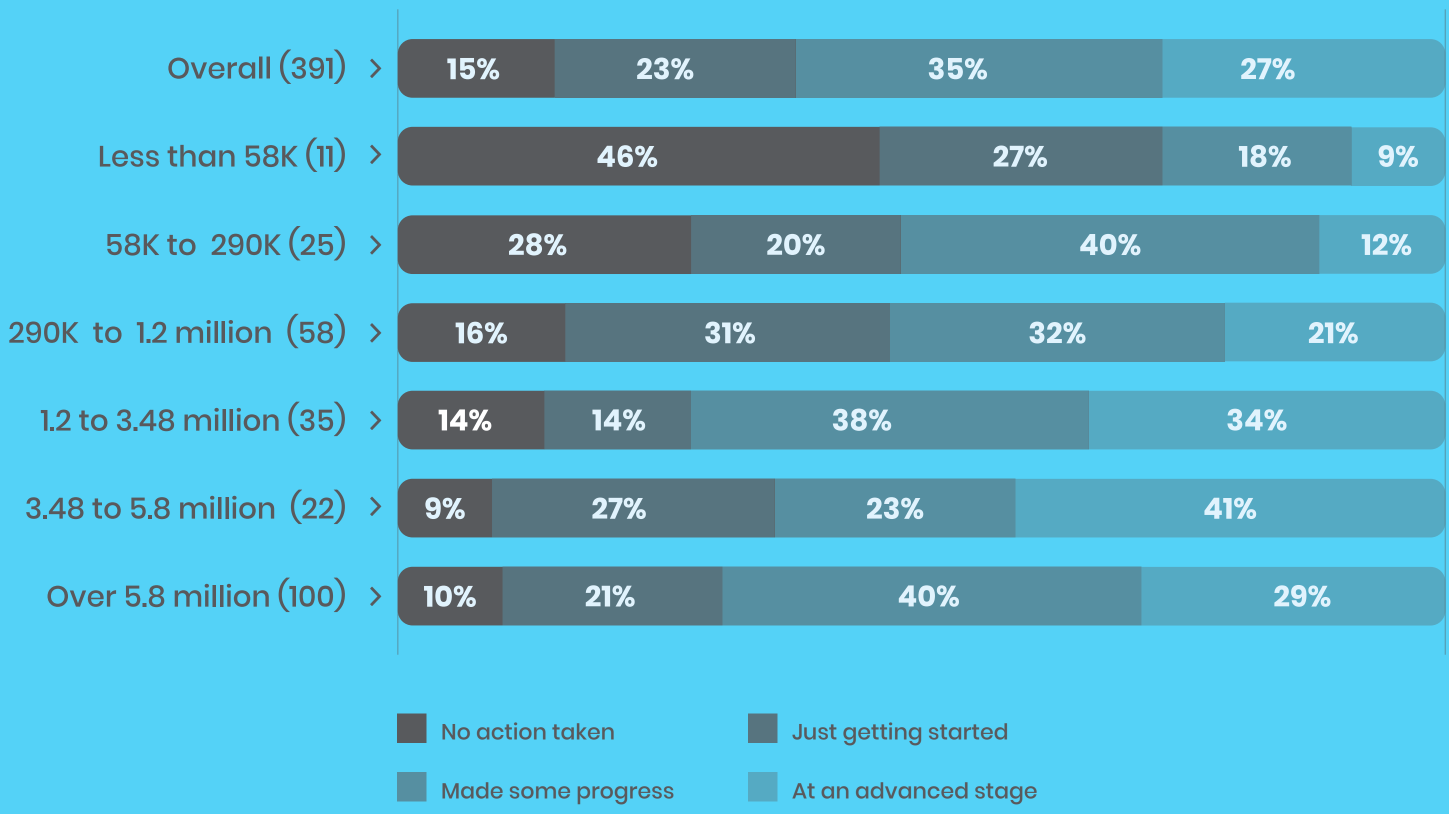


Photo credit: gorodenkoff on iStock

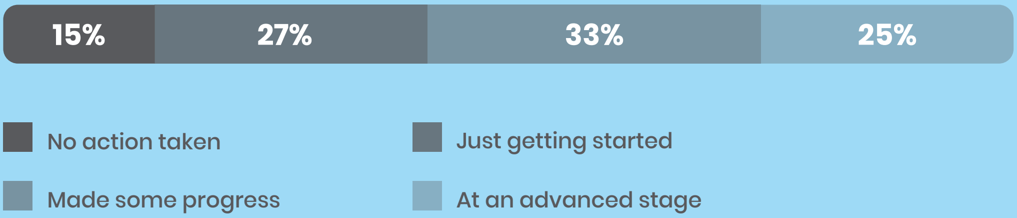
PILLAR

03

Integration

Embedding a climate lens into our strategy, programmes and processes

Progress on Pillar 3: Integration
(451 respondents)



85% of signatories are acting on Integration, with **25%** at an advanced stage. Overall, integration represents a transition from awareness to structural change, with progress steady rather than transformative.

Overall, progress on Integration is established but uneven. A quarter of signatories are at an advanced stage, and only 15% have taken no action.

Progress is being made by signatories of all sizes. However, the very smallest signatories stand out, with 38% taking no action. **Given their scale, integration will look different from larger signatories, so sharing practical examples of proportionate action could support them to get started.**

Among the largest signatories, 9 out of 10 have taken action on the Integration pillar, with 67% having reached the "Building momentum" or "Showing leadership" stages. This signals significant shifts in practice across the movement. The most recent Spanish progress report (2024) reinforces the role of scale, noting that "82% of large foundations indicate they have adjusted some programmes to integrate climate change, compared to only 35% of small foundations." Capacity and strategic flexibility appear to shape the depth of integration.

Progress is roughly comparable by organisation type. Community foundations stand out as making progress (56%) but having the smallest proportion at an advanced stage (20%). **Intermediary funders/re-grantors may have transferable learning to share with Community Foundations given 50% report being at an advanced stage of integration. This suggests that organisations already positioned between funders and frontline partners may have developed practical integration mechanisms that could be shared more deliberately across the movement.**

By country, France is reporting strong progress on the Integration pillar, with 41% of signatories at an advanced stage, in contrast to Italy at 5%. These differences align with national landscape dynamics and underline the importance of context sensitivity. The most recent French progress report (2025) adds an important reflection, noting that in France, "the substantial engagement of environmental foundations and the inactivity of non-environmental foundations suggests that climate is still perceived as a 'sector' rather than a systemic crisis". This highlights a core challenge for this pillar – that integration requires systemic thinking from environmentally focused and non-environmentally focused signatories alike.

Integration progress appears to begin with partner support and integration of climate considerations into strategic plans, whereas deep programme redesign appears less common. Overall, integration represents a transition from awareness to structural change, with progress steady rather than transformative. **The French, UK, Canadian and International Commitment signatories appear to have transferable learning in this area, particularly for signatories seeking to move from incremental adjustments to more systemic redesign.**

The most recent Spanish progress report notes that more than half of non-environmental signatories report taking some adaptation action, with examples spanning infrastructure and energy, reforestation and restoration, and biodiversity. **Action on climate adaptation and resilience is a possible route to increasing integration among current signatories and encouraging new signatories to join the movement.**

Photo credit: Water Alternatives Photos on Flickr

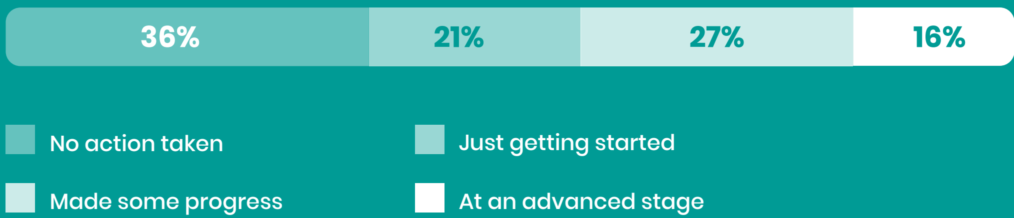
PILLAR

04

Endowments and Assets

Incorporating climate considerations into our investment approach and financial management

Progress on Pillar 4: Endowments and Assets
(452 respondents)



95% of signatories with a confirmed endowment are acting on this pillar: However, those without endowments are less confident on how to progress action on wider assets.

Endowments and Assets is the most structurally differentiated pillar across the movement, reflecting differences in foundation models and financial structures:

- While 95% of signatories who have confirmed they have an endowment are acting on this pillar, this figure drops to 64% when looking at all respondents.
- Among signatories with a confirmed endowment, 49% are "building momentum" and 32% are "showing leadership", while only 16% of all responding signatories have reached an advanced stage, the lowest proportion across all pillars.

For signatories without endowments, pathways are less obvious and often structurally limited. For example, Poland, Spain and Brazil report very low levels of progress on this pillar, which lowers the overall average, reflecting national asset models described in the landscape snapshots above. Progress under this pillar appears to reflect differences in asset models and regulatory context as much as differences in ambition.

For endowed signatories, Progress on Pillar 4 is higher among those with larger endowments. Only 4% of the 51 largest endowed signatories have not taken action, and 80% report having made progress or being at an advanced stage. Among the 54 signatories with small endowments (under $3.6 million), less than 50% report significant progress. This suggests that scale influences pace and confidence, rather than determining whether action is possible.

When looking at expenditure, higher spend is again correlated with being more likely to act. However, smaller spending signatories also report instances of advanced progress, demonstrating that scale influences pace but does not determine possibility. This difference in progress by foundation size has been noted by the recent Italian and French progress reports. National reports indicate that barriers are likely to differ by context. Areas identified for further exploration include:

- **Access to specialist advice and financial services, particularly for smaller foundations, as suggested in the 2025 French progress report.**
- **Knowledge and capacity constraints that could be addressed through shared practice, tools and investment frameworks.**
- The impact of very small endowments on prioritisation decisions. In Spain, where 40% of foundations have initial endowments below €500,000, almost half report no action under this pillar.
- Clarifying what constitutes "assets" beyond traditional endowments. The 2024 Spanish progress report notes that many signatories already hold accounts in ethical banking entities, suggesting incremental entry points that are not always recognised as progress under this pillar.

Changes in this pillar are happening, however, across the movement: 77% (n=21) of Canadian signatories, 67% (n=16) of International signatories, and 53% (n=60) of UK signatories report making some progress or reaching an advanced stage. **Making these approaches more visible could reduce uncertainty for foundations operating in more constrained asset environments. Smaller signatories demonstrating progress also offer practical, proportionate models that could be shared more deliberately across commitments.**

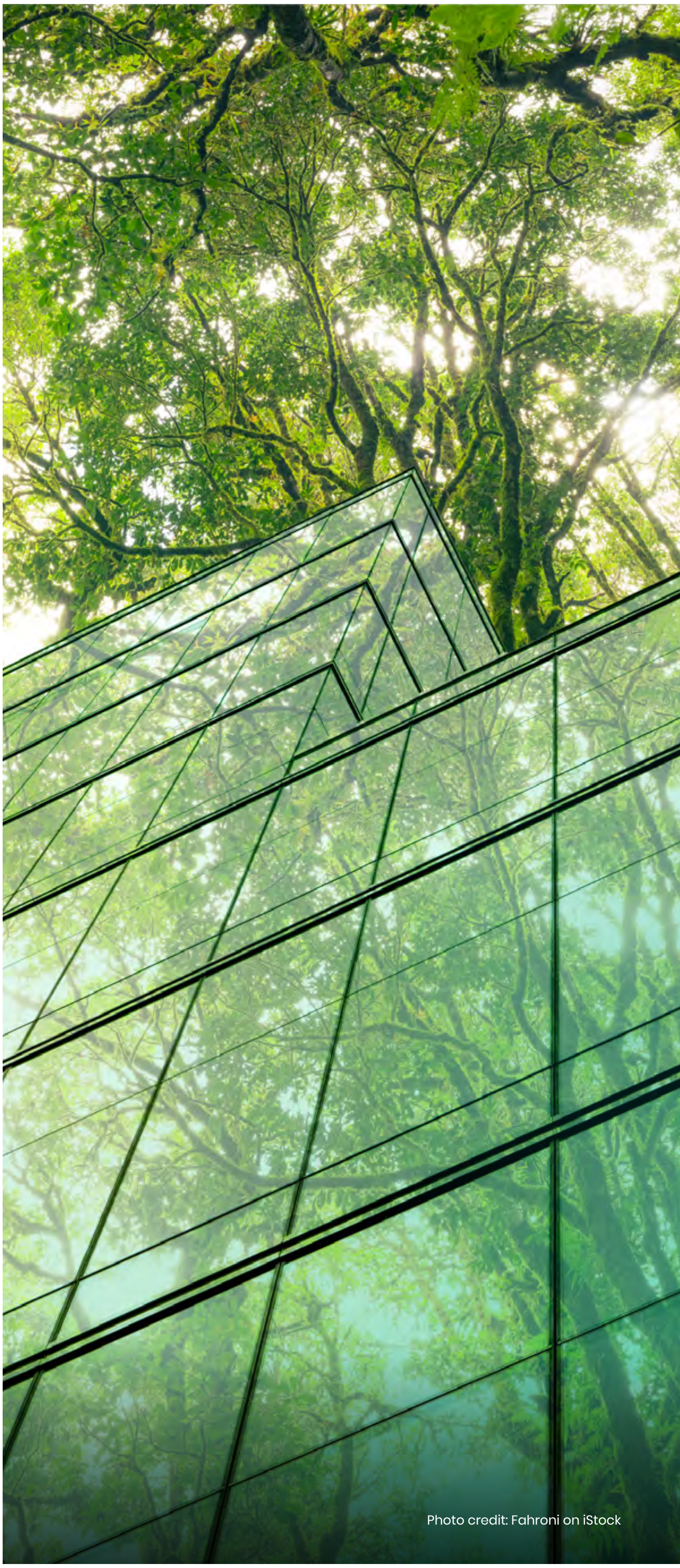
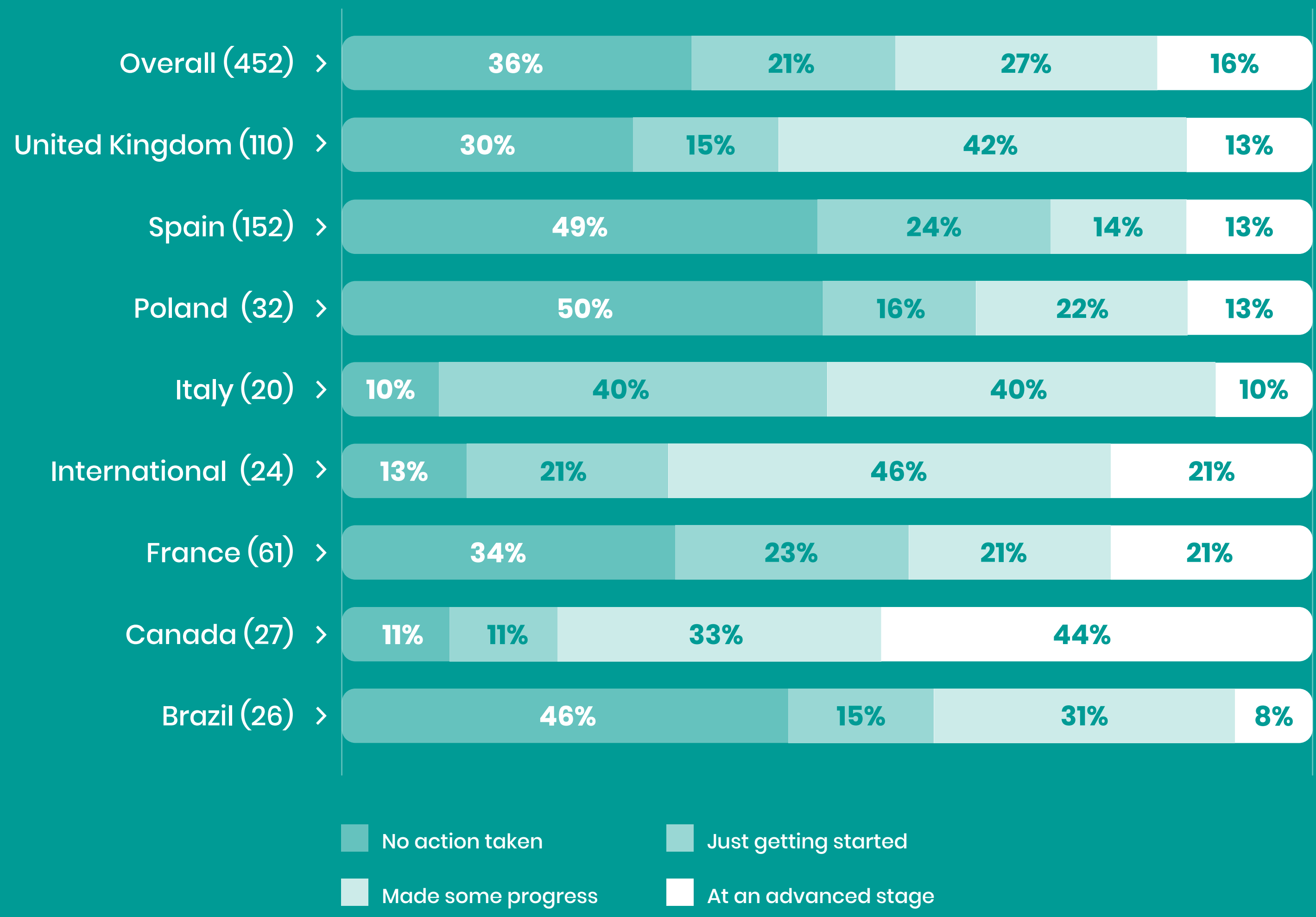


Photo credit: Fahroni on iStock

Pillar 4: Endowments and Assets by country

Base: Response numbers for each question shown in brackets



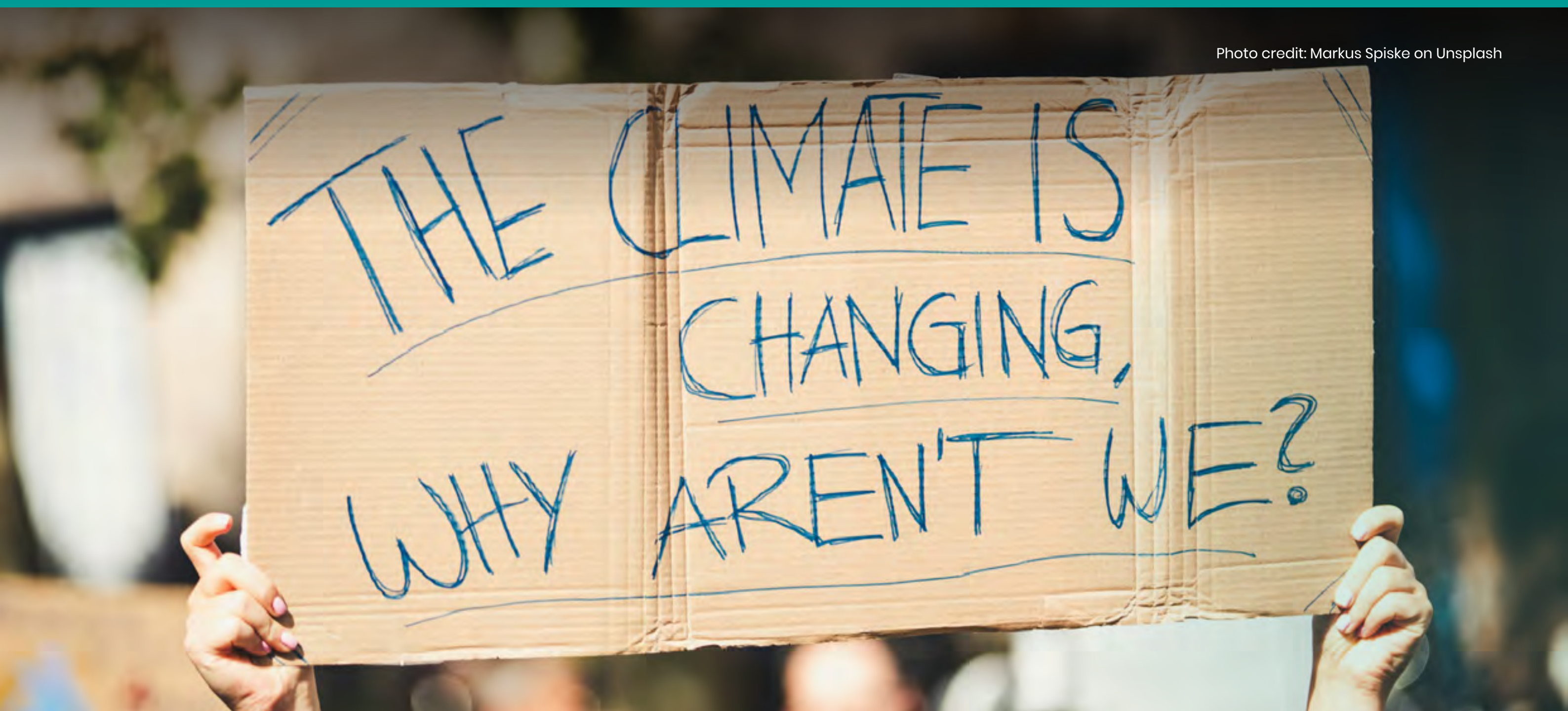


Photo credit: Markus Spiske on Unsplash

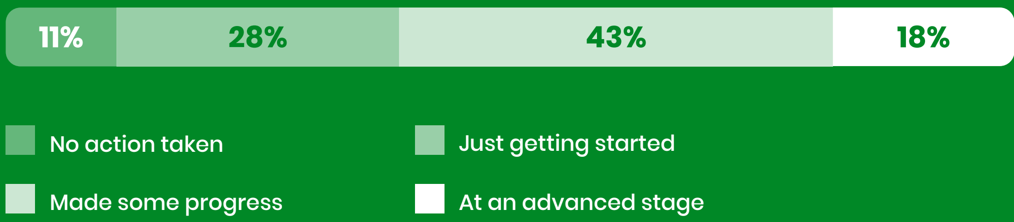
PILLAR

05

Operations

Minimising the climate impact of our own operations, and ensuring that these are resilient to a changing climate

Progress on Pillar 5: Operations
(452 respondents)



Nine out of ten signatories are acting on the Operations pillar, and one in five are at an advanced stage. Progress differs markedly by foundation type. Corporate foundations have the highest proportion at an advanced stage.

Engagement is high in this pillar, with almost 89% of signatories taking action, and 18% at an advanced stage, positioning action on Operations as an established norm across the movement, though depth of practice remains uneven.

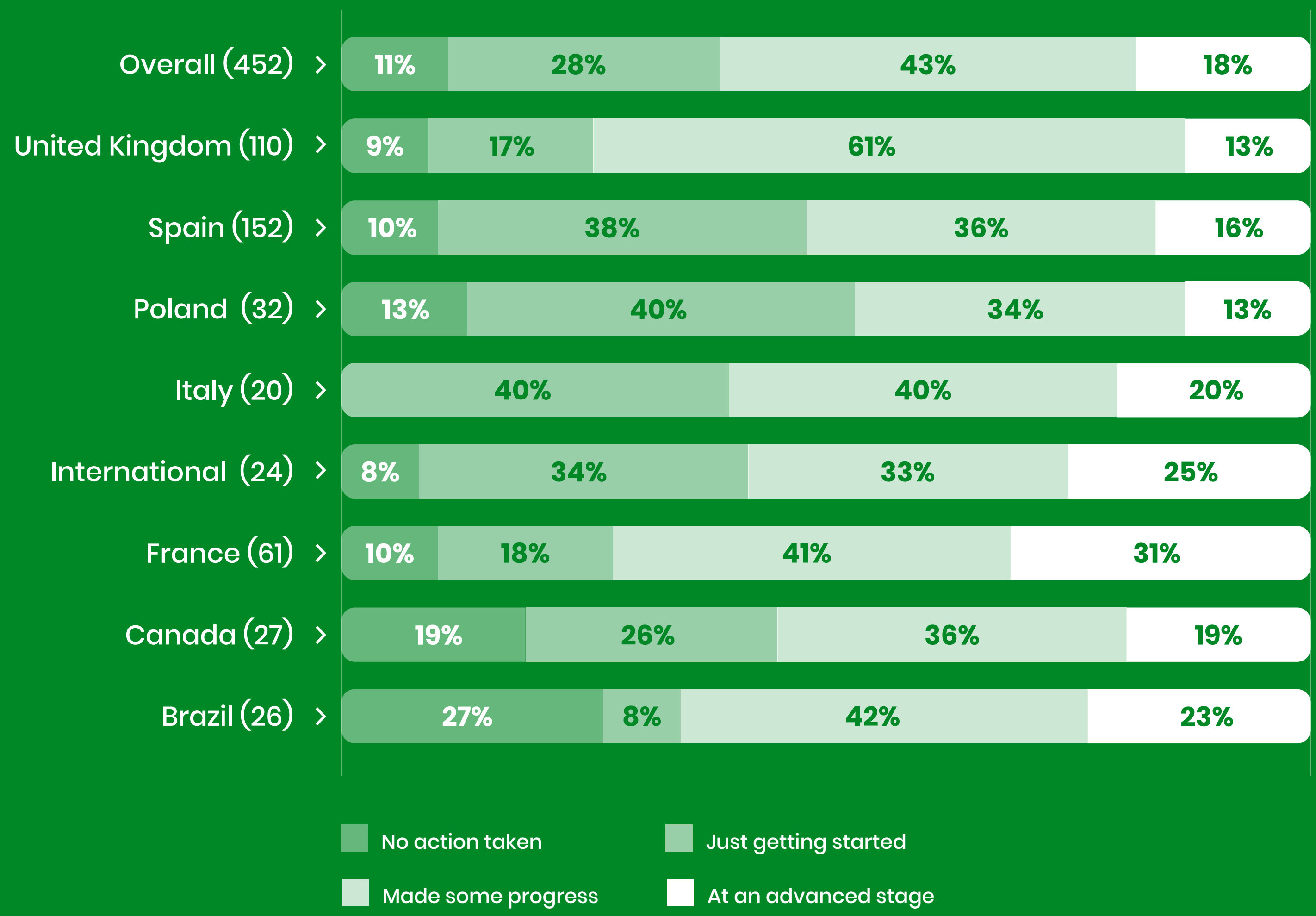
Progress differs markedly by foundation type. Corporate foundations have the highest proportion at an advanced stage (35%), compared to community foundations (20%) and family foundations (10%). This likely reflects corporate foundations operating within broader corporate sustainability frameworks, drawing on established reporting systems, targets and internal expertise from their parent organisations.

Progress is more even across expenditure levels than in other pillars. The largest signatories stand out, with almost all acting, most (59%) having made some progress and 16% at an advanced stage. Action has clearly become standard practice within this group, yet movement into advanced stages remains limited, suggesting scope for clearer benchmarks, peer exchange and shared standards to deepen ambition.

As the most recent Canadian progress report (2023) notes, “the Operations [pillar] emphasises the importance of leading by example”, and across multiple national Commitment reports it is clear that action is steadily increasing with the number of respondents saying they have taken no action declining. This reinforces the role of the Philanthropy For Climate movement in normalising operational climate responsibility. The next phase is less about encouraging initial action and more about supporting foundations already engaged to move from incremental operational adjustments to embedded, measurable and resilient practice.

Pillar 5: Operations by country

Base: Response numbers for each question shown in brackets



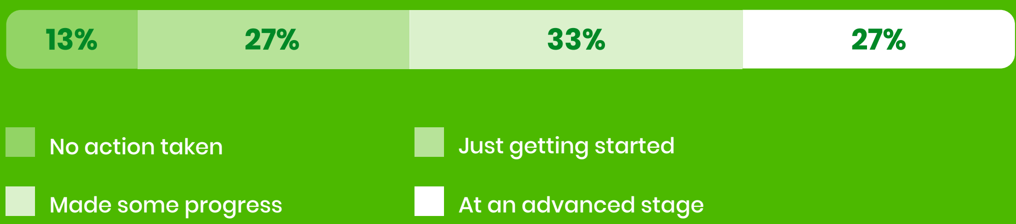
PILLAR

06

Influencing and Advocacy

Using our voice to encourage more ambitious climate action and uplifting the voices of frontline communities

Progress on Pillar 6: Influencing and Advocacy
(170 respondents)



*This data does not include UK, Italian or Spanish Commitment Signatories, as there is no equivalent pillar in their national commitment.

Progress on Influencing and Advocacy is strong: **60%** of signatories are either in the “building momentum” or “showing leadership” stage.

Data is not available from all Commitments, as the UK, Italy and Spain do not have a comparable pillar. This does not indicate absence of activity, but rather structural differences in how Commitments are configured. For example, the most recent UK progress report (2025) notes that “several signatories… reported actions around advocacy: raising the visibility of their work on climate and being more ‘vocal’ about it.”

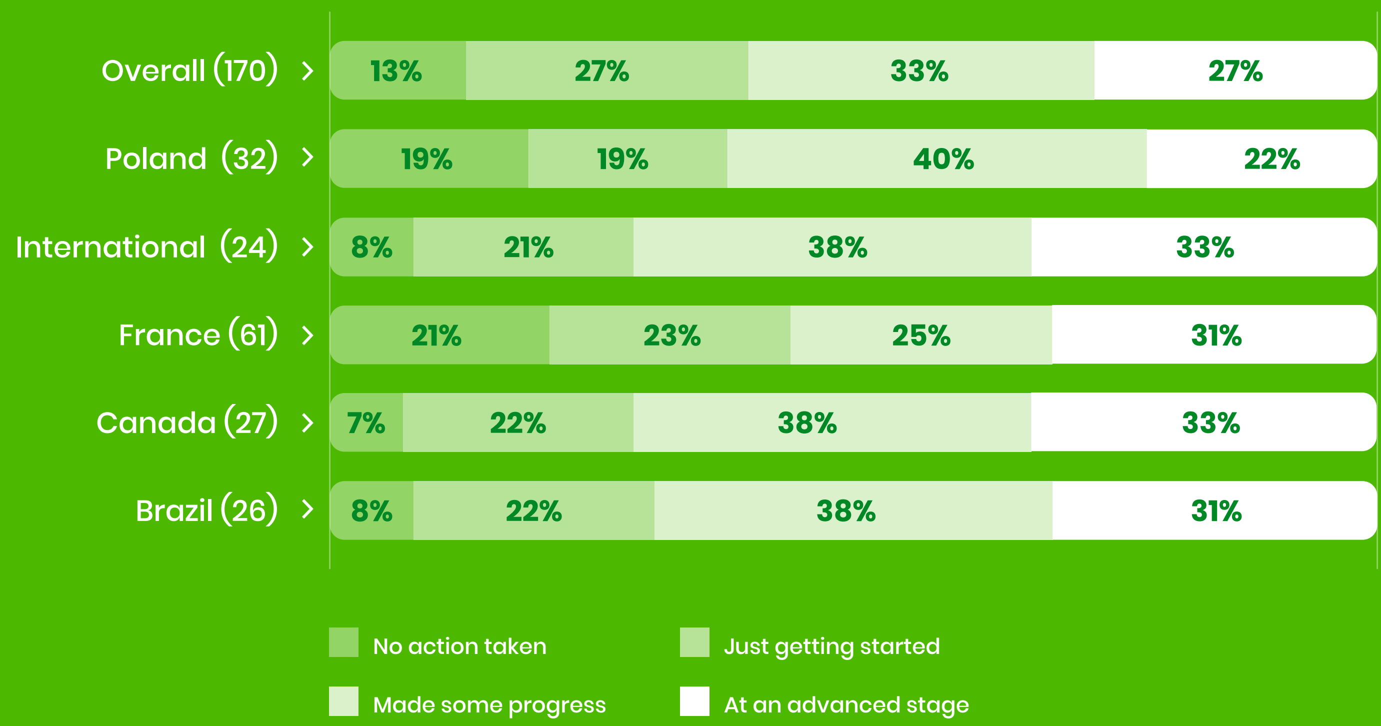
Among those reporting under this pillar, the largest signatories show the highest levels of progress. Over three quarters (76%) have started taking action of which 27% are at an advanced stage. This indicates that foundations with greater scale and visibility are more likely to use their convening power, public voice and institutional influence. The overall pattern shows a gradient, with the smallest foundations doing the least on this pillar and the largest doing the most. When it comes to foundation type, progress is broadly comparable across all categories.

National context plays a decisive role in shaping how advocacy is understood and enacted. National Commitment reports consistently describe Influencing and Advocacy as important, yet implementation is shaped by cultural and political context. For example, the most recent French progress report (2025) notes that French philanthropic culture is less focused on direct advocacy, and signatories, particularly non-environmental ones, may hesitate to speak publicly on climate due to concerns about legitimacy or being perceived as partisan. In contrast, Brazilian philanthropy has significant influence enshrined in the legal framework for civil society organizations. Moreover, it operates within a context of profound social inequality, which has historically prompted engagement in socio-environmental agendas and the defence of rights. The most recent Polish progress report indicates increasing participation in debates, consultations, the media and campaigns – demonstrating that even newly established national Commitments and their signatories can make progress on this pillar.

For the movement, this highlights both opportunity and constraint. Collective advocacy mechanisms may help address confidence and legitimacy concerns in contexts where foundations are hesitant to act alone. At the same time, strategies must remain sensitive to national political context as well as legal and cultural frameworks. **Strengthening peer exchange on advocacy practice, particularly between contexts with differing norms, could help signatories expand their influence while navigating local constraints.**

Pillar 6: Influencing and Advocacy by country

Base: Response numbers for each question shown in brackets



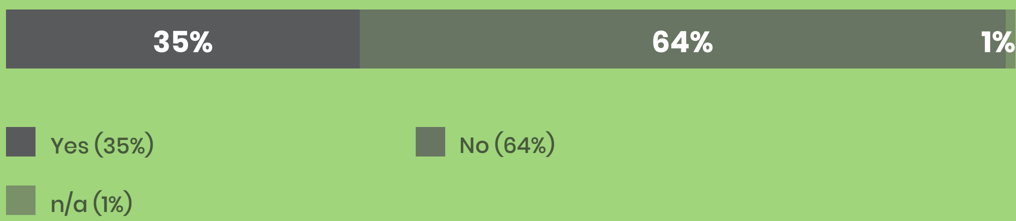
PILLAR

07

Transparency

Committing to reporting regularly on the progress we are making towards implementing this commitment

Have you published any info regarding your climate progress?



In a changing global context, public positioning on climate can feel more exposed for some organisations, particularly where confidence, perceived risk or capacity constraints are present. Aggregated transparency offers a credible route forward, enabling signatories to contribute to a robust collective evidence base while mitigating concerns about reputational exposure.

Transparency underpins the movement's credibility and supports further philanthropic action for climate; however signatories interpret and practice it in different ways.

35% of responding signatories report publishing information on their climate progress individually. However, 100% of responding signatories have contributed to the movement's transparency by participating in the progress reporting survey. It is likely that many signatories do not recognise participation in shared reporting as a contribution to the Transparency pillar, which helps explain why self-reported progress under this pillar appears comparatively low. A similar pattern is mirrored in the second International Commitment progress report (2026).

Transparency appears shaped by sector culture as well as a foundation's confidence, risk appetite, peer norms and capacity. For example, community foundations (46%) corporate foundations (36%) and larger foundations (40%) are more likely to publish information about their climate progress, which may reflect greater public scrutiny, stronger reporting infrastructure, or dedicated internal capacity. Moreover, signatories with endowments over $36 million are more than three times as likely to participate in this progress reporting as those in the overall signatory pool, suggesting greater reporting capacity among larger institutions.

The global level of self-reported transparency is 35% (n=149), but this ranges from 50% (n=76) of Spanish signatories to 19% (n=21) of UK signatories. This variation aligns with national philanthropic cultures described in the landscape snapshots above. The UK includes a significant proportion of family foundations, a group less likely to report publicly on climate progress. At the same time, the UK Commitment sees the highest response rate for progress reporting (87% of eligible signatories) and as host, ACF publishes some of the raw data shared by signatories. This approach, facilitated by the national cultural and regulatory context, might lessen the perceived need for additional public reporting. In France, a "culture of discretion", particularly among sheltered foundations or from the private sector, is highlighted as a barrier.

The movement is achieving substantial engagement in collective reporting mechanisms, even where publication at the individual foundation level remains less common. This reflects different comfort levels with collective versus stand-alone transparency. In a changing global context, public positioning on climate can feel more exposed for some organisations, particularly where confidence, perceived risk or capacity constraints are present. **Aggregated transparency offers a credible route forward, enabling signatories to contribute to a robust collective evidence base while mitigating concerns about reputational exposure. Developing simple tools, shared templates and clearer guidance on proportionate transparency could further reduce practical and perceived barriers, while continuing to strengthen the collective voice and credibility of the movement.**

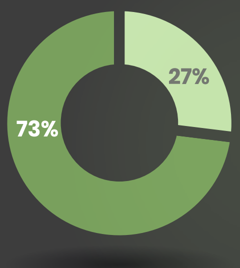
Photo credit: Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT on Flickr

Country breakdown

Have you published any information regarding your climate progress?

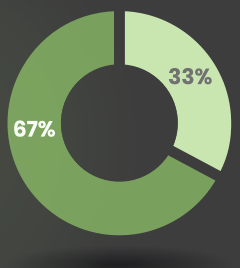
Yes No n/a

Brazil



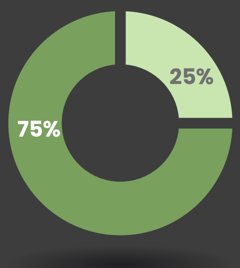
Base size: **26 respondents**

Canada



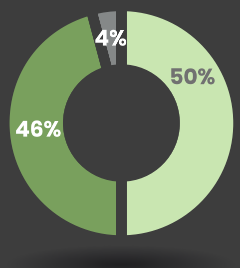
Base size: **27 respondents**

Italy



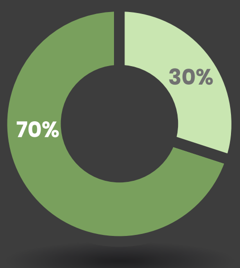
Base size: **20 respondents**

Spain



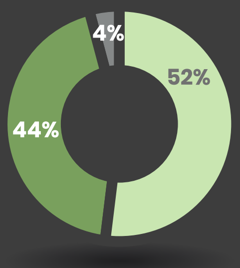
Base size: **152 respondents**

France



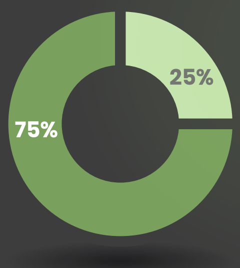
Base size: **61 respondents**

International



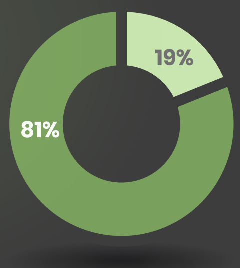
Base size: **24 respondents**

Poland



Base size: **32 respondents**

United Kingdom



Base size: **110 respondents**

Photo credit: Qarlos Qastilla on iStock

SECTION 08

Conclusions

This first overall Philanthropy For Climate: State of the Movement Report shows that the Philanthropy For Climate Commitments are shifting behaviour at scale. Across diverse philanthropic cultures, governance models and resource levels, climate action is moving from aspiration to structured practice.

Photo credit: chingyunsong on iStock

The findings confirm that signing a commitment does more than signal intent. It sparks action, structures work, strengthens coherence and sustains progress over time. Nearly all reporting signatories are taking steps to implement their commitments. Over two thirds have moved beyond early activity into building momentum or demonstrating leadership, and 88% report that signing has influenced their awareness and action. The correlation between deeper engagement and stronger perceived impact shows how the commitments function as reinforcing mechanisms for institutional change.

Progress is not uniform: It reflects structural conditions, financial structures, national contexts and enabling conditions, as well as organisational capacity. Larger signatories often move faster, particularly where resourcing enables deeper integration or investment action. Yet size does not determine ambition. Smaller signatories are also demonstrating leadership, confirming that proportionate pathways are both viable and necessary.

Patterns across pillars reveal important strategic inflection points:

- Education and Learning has become established practice and acts as a consistent entry point as well as an ongoing journey.
- Commitment of Resources and Influencing and Advocacy are showing strong leadership-level progress, indicating that financial flows and institutional voice are beginning to shift.
- Integration is advancing but remains uneven, highlighting the challenge of embedding climate across strategy rather than treating it as a programme area.
- Experiences under the Endowments and Assets pillar exposes structural constraints – where endowments exist, action is widespread; where they do not, action pathways require clarification.
- Actions under Operations are now normative, but depth of ambition varies.
- Transparency demonstrates strong collective engagement, even where individual publication remains cautious.

Taken together, the evidence shows a movement that is mainstreaming climate responsibility across philanthropy, while also revealing where acceleration is needed.

Priorities for the next phase of the movement

The findings in this report point to several priorities for the next phase of the movement.

1. Strengthen structured progress: Philanthropy For Climate offers a framework for climate action that is relevant and accessible to a wide range of foundations. Signatories make the most progress when they build off the commitment framework with a forward-looking organisational plan that guides how they move from early climate engagement to deeper integration.
2. Support diverse pathways: Progress follows different pathways depending on signatories' structural realities including size, governance, asset models, capacity and context, reinforcing the importance of flexible, context-sensitive approaches across national and regional commitments.
3. Invest in enabling conditions: Moving from early engagement to sustained integration, particularly across the more challenging pillars, requires stronger shared infrastructure including practical tools, peer-learning formats and confidence-building, risk-sensitive reporting mechanisms.

How your organisation can strengthen the movement

These priorities translate into distinct roles for foundations as signatories, philanthropy support organisations as Commitment Hosts, and climate philanthropy ecosystem builders.

Foundations:

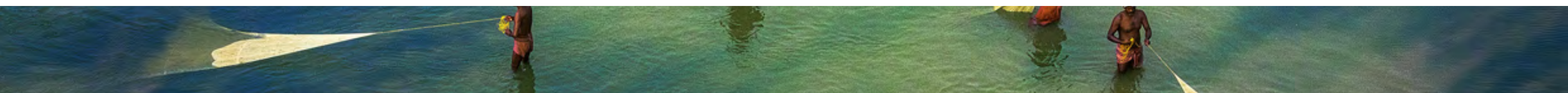
- Develop and implement a simple, forward-looking climate plan that builds on your Commitment's structure and guides your next stage of progression, considering the Philanthropy For Climate Progress Reports and Implementation Guides for practical inspiration.
- Work with Philanthropy For Climate Hosts to amplify your progress and lessons learned along the way, including through regular progress tracking, and help to bring in new signatory foundations with diverse structures, sizes and starting points.

Philanthropy support organisations Commitment Hosts:

- Provide tailored, practical pathways and peer-learning formats that reflect the varied structures and capacities of signatories, helping them translate early engagement into deeper, proportionate action.
- Look for opportunities to make progress visible and transferable across the movement by curating learnings, and surfacing practical examples and tools.

Climate Philanthropy Ecosystem Builders:

- Invest in the shared infrastructure that enables Philanthropy For Climate signatories and Hosts to progress from early climate action toward sustained integration: convenings, practical resources, and proportionate reporting mechanisms.
- Use your resources, networks and leadership to strengthen coordination and accelerate climate integration across philanthropy and the next phase of this movement.



Get in touch!

If you have comments, suggestions or questions, we would love to hear from you. Please contact: climatecommitment@wingsweb.org

ANNEX 01

Annex 1: Snapshots of national philanthropic landscapes

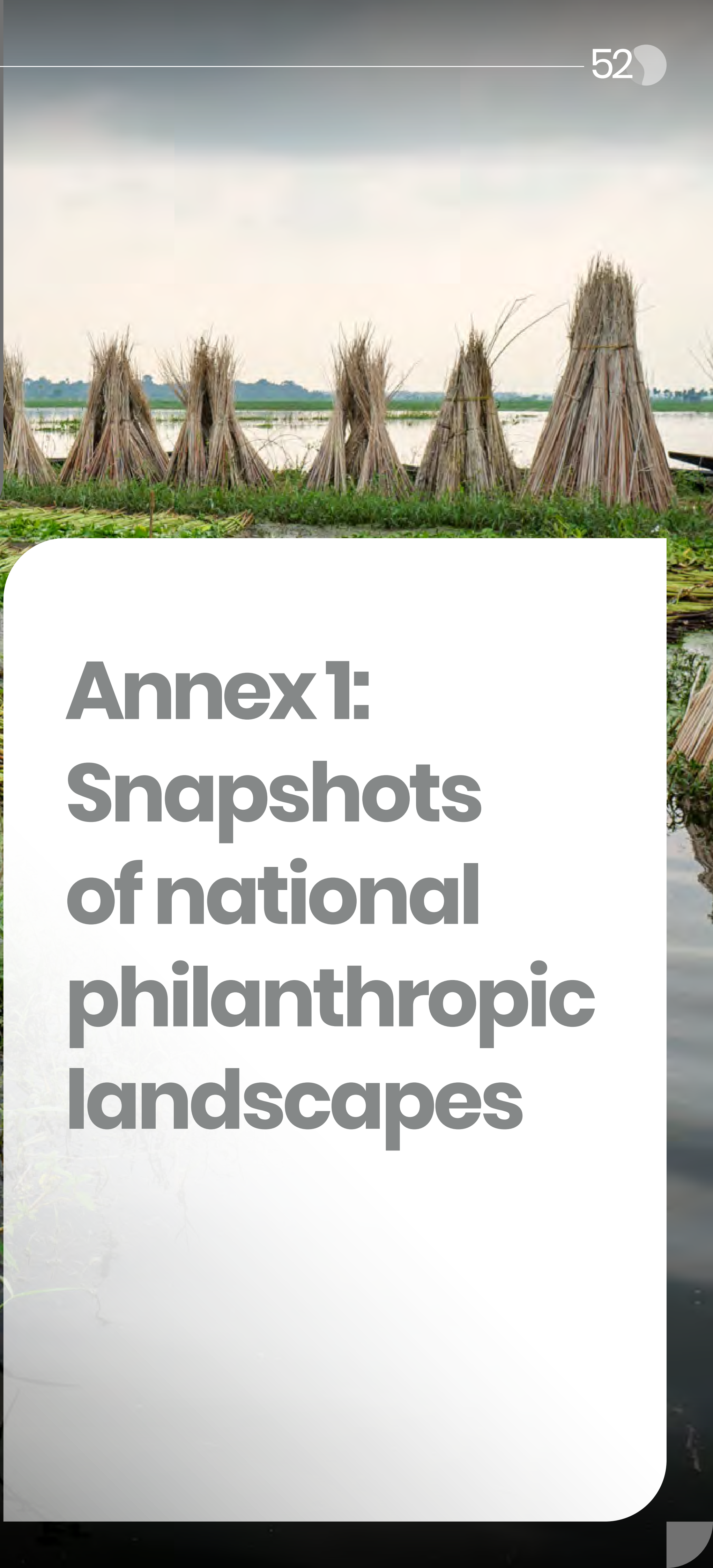


Photo credit: DIPAYAN BOSE on Climate Visuals Countdown

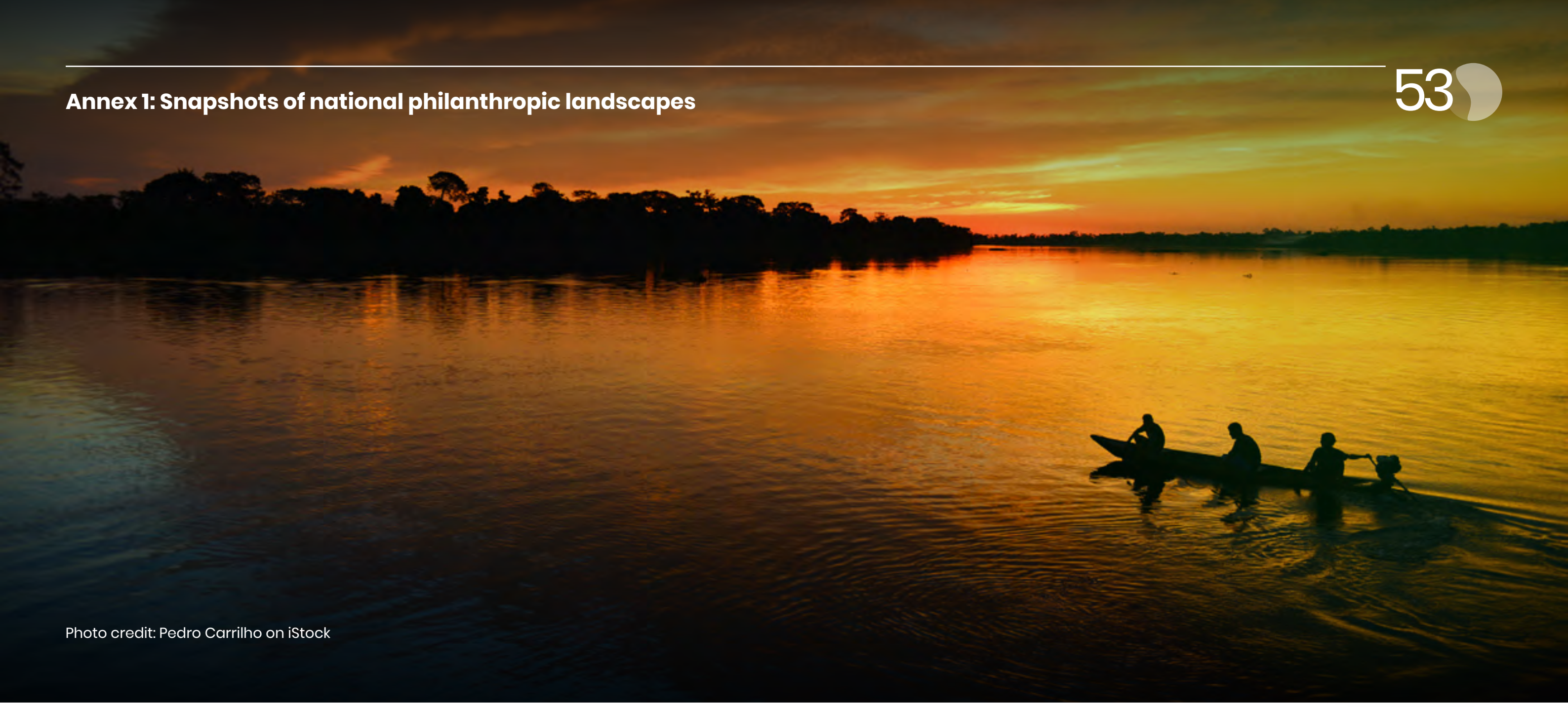


Photo credit: Pedro Carrilho on iStock

The global Philanthropy For Climate movement is powered by national and regional Commitments that ensure the global framework is rooted in local philanthropic realities, priorities and practices. The diversity of the global philanthropy ecosystem shows why our response to climate change must be both locally led and globally coordinated.

National and regional commitment hosts play an important role in building bridges across the global movement, supporting signatories to act and accelerating the overall philanthropic response to climate change.

Understanding the philanthropic landscape of each national Commitment is central to understanding how structural, cultural and regulatory contexts shape what progress looks like in different countries and why the journey may vary even when the destination is shared.

Brazil

Hosted by Grupo de Institutos Fundações e Empresas (GIFE)

The sector in Brazil is characterised by a growing ecosystem, but still modest in size compared to the national GDP (World Giving Index). It is predominantly composed of corporate foundations and institutes, with a significant growth of family and independent foundations and funds — including community and local funds.

Mainly referred to as private social investment, philanthropy in Brazil has a strong focus on projects offering measurable impact in education, local development, and the environment. Financial resources primarily come from donations by business families and largely from allocations by companies to their affiliated institutes. A distinctive feature of Brazil is the significant influence of the sector in the legal framework for civil society organisations and a historical relation with local social organisations. As part of one of the most unequal countries in the world, Brazilian philanthropy is prompted to play a notable role in mitigating profound social inequalities and advocating for public policies, aiming for a philanthropy engaged in socio-environmental agendas and the defence of rights.

Canada

Hosted by Philanthropic Foundations Canada, Community Foundations of Canada, Environment Funders Canada and The Circle

Canada's philanthropic sector is a significant part of the country's social fabric, comprising over 11,000 public and private foundations with more than CAD 135 billion in assets. Operating alongside 84,000 registered charities and an estimated 190,000 social purpose organisations, it makes up one of the most institutionalised philanthropic environments in the world. The sector reflects the country's multicultural identity, shaped by Indigenous traditions as well as English, French and immigrant traditions, which influence giving patterns, priorities and governance.

Canadian philanthropy is structured around private and public foundations, community foundations, donor-advised funds, flow-through funds and endowed institutions. Funding primarily comes from individual and family wealth, corporate giving programmes, and community contributions.

Foundations are particularly active in education, health, social services, climate action, and international development, often complementing government programmes within Canada's social-welfare-oriented democracy. A distinctive feature of the Canadian context is its regulated 5% disbursement quota, which requires foundations to grant a minimum portion of their assets annually. Canada is also notable for the growing influence of Indigenous-led philanthropy and land-based stewardship, as well as the rapid rise of immigrant-driven giving and impact-investing practices. Together, these elements make Canada's philanthropic landscape both highly regulated and deeply rooted in community, with increasing attention to reconciliation, equity and systems-level change. (See Philanthropic Foundations Canada's Landscape Report 2024 for more information.)

France

Hosted by Centre Français des Fonds et Fondations (CFF)

In France, the philanthropy ecosystem has experienced growth reflected in at least 5833 foundations and funds, spending over €17 billion for the common good in 2024. A foundation is the act by which one or many persons decide the irrevocable assignment of goods, rights or resources to the realisation of a non-profit project of general interest. There are a number of legally recognised types of foundations and funds in France, namely: public utility foundations (fondations reconnues d'utilité publique), corporate foundations (fondations d'entreprise), sheltered foundations (fondations abritées) under the aegis of a few public utility foundations, foundations for scientific cooperation (fondations de coopération scientifique), university foundations (fondations universitaires), partnership foundations (fondations partenariales), hospital foundations (fondations hospitalières), and endowment funds (fonds de dotation). (See Fondation de France's Barometre Annuel de la Philanthropie for more information.)

Italy

Hosted by by Assifero

Italy's philanthropic landscape is characterised by the coexistence of two complementary but separate national philanthropy infrastructure organisations: Foundations of banking origin, which are legally regulated and relatively homogeneous, are represented by ACRI (Associazione di Fondazioni e di Casse di Risparmio Spa); and a diverse group of philanthropic foundations and entities, including family, corporate and community foundations and other philanthropic organisations, are represented by Assifero.

This complexity is compounded by the legal framework in which the term "foundation" refers to a neutral legal form rather than an inherently philanthropic actor, meaning it may refer to hospitals, research centres or social enterprises alongside grantmaking bodies. Following the 2017 reform of the Italian non-profit sector, the legal category of philanthropic organisations was introduced. Philanthropic organisations may be established as foundations or associations, must indicate their status as a philanthropic body in their name, and deploy financial and non-financial resources for disadvantaged individuals or for general-interest purposes.

The National Single Register of the Third Sector, currently the most reliable source for legal classification, records 420 philanthropic organisations. The Italian National Institute of Statistics estimates a total of 8,356 foundations. Excluding banking origin foundations, Italian philanthropy remains relatively young and fragmented, characterised by a limited number of significantly endowed organisations, modest annual allocations relative to the country's wealth potential, and a prevalence of small foundations.

Poland

Hosted by Forum Darczyńców w Polsce

In Poland, civil society is sizable and diverse, with around 75,000 active NGOs working across various fields, including sport, education and culture. Environmental and climate organisations represent a smaller but increasingly visible part of the sector. Organisations tend to be relatively small, operate with lean teams, and rely heavily on project-based funding, volunteer engagement and informal networks. Funding comes mainly from public grants (Kondycja Organizacji Pozarządowych.)

There is no explicit legal definition of a foundation in Polish law. A vast majority of Polish foundations do not have an endowment and are used as a vehicle for collecting external funding for their activities. Additionally, a significant source of their funding is public money (provided for public-utility services contracted by local governments). The basic act that regulates the principles for the establishment and operation of foundations is the Law on Foundations, which is part of the administrative law. In the public register, there are 35,476 foundations. It is estimated that 60% of these are active, which equates to approximately 21,000 foundations. There are a small number of foundations with significant endowments (Fabric of Giving: Public-Benefit Foundation Data in Europe)

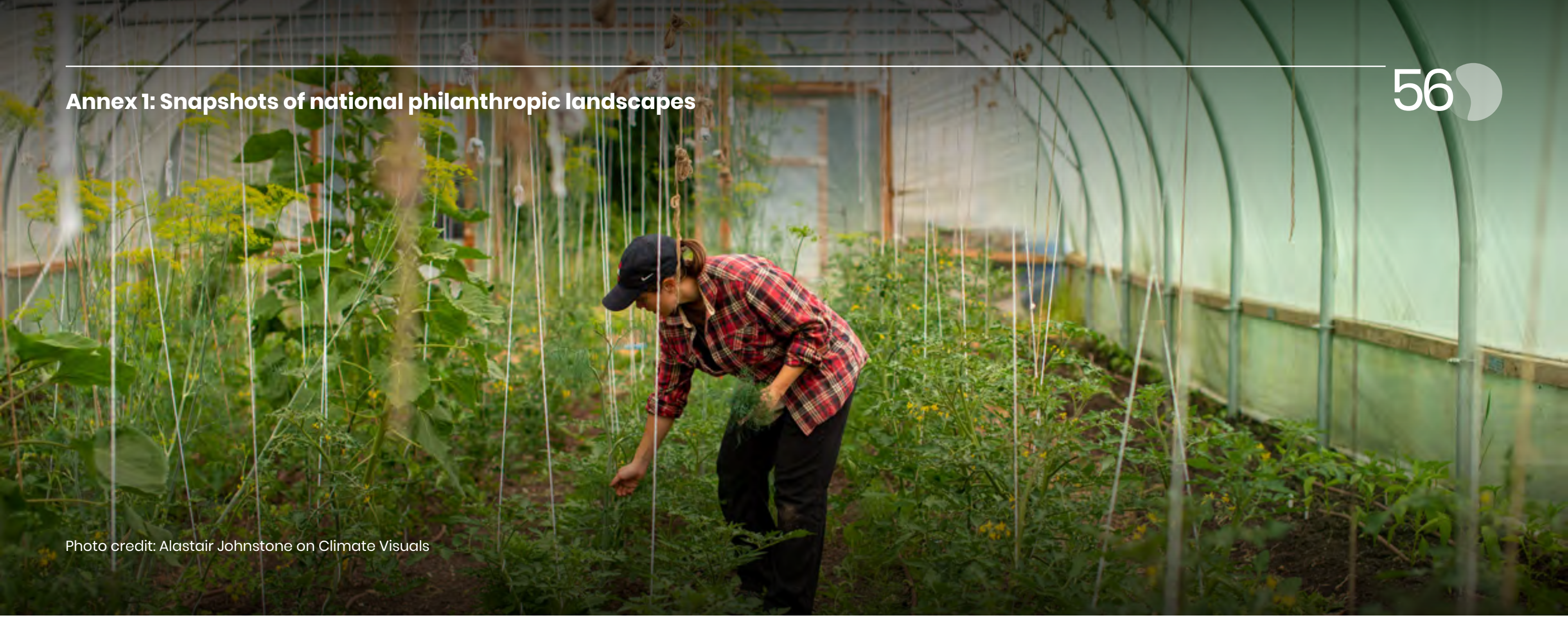


Photo credit: Alastair Johnstone on Climate Visuals

Spain

Hosted by the Asociación Española de Fundaciones (AEF)

Foundations are legally defined as non-profit organisations, whose assets are, according to the wishes of the founders, allocated permanently to the fulfilment of general-interest purposes (Fabric of Giving: Public-Benefit Foundation Data in Europe.) Spanish foundations include both grantmaking foundations, which fund third-party projects, and operating foundations, which run their own programmes.

Annual expenditure is estimated at over €17.5 billion euros and there are over 10,000 active foundations (Fabric of Giving: Public-Benefit Foundation Data in Europe). In macroeconomic terms, the total impact of the sector in 2020 represented a Gross Value Added of €27 billion (2.4% of GDP) and generated approximately 589,000 jobs (3.4% of the national total). Over 60% of foundations have an initial endowment below €500,000, and 36% have no paid staff, relying exclusively on volunteers and board members (Análisis de la contribución económica y social de las fundaciones españolas.) The sector is dynamic and relatively young: 73% of foundations have been created in the past 25 years, with a strong boost following the 2002 Foundations Law.

UK

Hosted by the Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF)

In the UK there is no specific legal form for foundations required by law. The terms “trust” and “foundation” are used interchangeably. Foundations are charities with an independent and sustainable income source, which use their assets in pursuit of their mission, primarily through grantmaking and investments, and sometimes advocacy. There are over 12,000 trusts and foundations in the UK. The largest 300 foundations collectively hold assets of nearly £89 billion (Trusts and Foundations). Income may come from historic endowments, living donors, businesses, funds from the government or raised from the public. Foundations may be established by individuals, families or a corporate parent, and can also be in the form of a community foundation or livery company.

ANNEX 02

Annex 2: Data aggregated across the movement

Photo credit: Teofilo Narvaez on Pexels

Background info

1. Which category most accurately describes your foundation?

- Community Foundation
- Foundation linked to families
- Foundation with corporate characteristics
- Intermediary fund/regrantor
- Public authority-funded foundation
- Other

2. If applicable, what is the approximate size of your endowment in USD as per your last financial reporting period?

3. What is your foundation's yearly expenditure in USD as per your last financial reporting period (including grantmaking, operations, and programs)?

4. What are the main areas of activity of your foundation? Below, we have primarily used the SDG framework to classify the different areas of philanthropic focus.

Please select all that apply.

- Life below water
- No poverty
- Quality education
- Gender equality
- Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Clean water and sanitation
- Good health and well-being
- Peace, justice, and strong institutions
- Zero hunger
- Responsible consumption and production
- Decent work and economic growth
- Life on land
- Sustainable cities and communities
- Arts and culture
- Affordable and clean energy
- Climate action
- Reduced inequalities
- Other, please specify

Capturing progress made

5. How much have you progressed with the implementation of **Pillar 1: Education & Learning** since signing the Commitment?

i. No action taken
ii. Just getting started
iii. Made Some Progress
iv. At an Advanced Stage

6. How much have you progressed with the implementation of **Pillar 2: Commitment of Resources** since signing the Commitment?

i. No action taken
ii. Just getting started
iii. Made Some Progress
iv. At an Advanced Stage

7. How much have you progressed with the implementation of **Pillar 3: Integration** since signing the Commitment?

i. No action taken
ii. Just getting started
iii. Made Some Progress
iv. At an Advanced Stage

8. How much have you progressed with the implementation of **Pillar 4: Endowments and Assets** since signing the Commitment?

i. No action taken
ii. Just getting started
iii. Made Some Progress
iv. At an Advanced Stage

9. How much have you progressed with the implementation of **Pillar 5: Operations** since signing the commitment?

i. No action taken
ii. Just getting started
iii. Made Some Progress
iv. At an Advanced Stage

10. How much have you progressed with the implementation of **Pillar 6: Influencing and Advocacy** since signing the commitment?

i. No action taken
ii. Just getting started
iii. Made Some Progress
iv. At an Advanced Stage

11. **Pillar 7:** Have you published any information regarding your climate progress since signing?

○ Yes
○ No

If yes, please provide a link to the most recent report:

Impact of Commitment

12. Please rate the degree to which signing the Climate Commitment has impacted your foundation's awareness and action on climate change.*

i. No action taken
ii. Just getting started
iii. Made Some Progress
iv. At an Advanced Stage

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